

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

For more information about events, visit  
the MTGS web site or contact  
Virginia Watson at [ginnyology@comcast.net](mailto:ginnyology@comcast.net)

### OUR MEETING PLACE

Knowles Senior Center (Fifty Forward)  
174 Rains Ave., Nashville  
From I-65 exit 81 East and follow  
Wedgewood Ave. into the State Fairgrounds.  
Turn left inside the gate in the black fence.

Check our website for last-minute changes:  
[www.mtgs.org](http://www.mtgs.org)

Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012  
Knowles Center 1:00

### Author's Showcase

Have you ever wanted to talk with a writer  
about genealogy and local history? Now's  
your chance! Eight local historians who have  
recently published the results of their  
research will speak briefly about their work.

Monday, Feb. 26, 2012  
Knowles Center 1:00

### Lunch & Learn: Finding Your African-American Roots

Conducted by Virginia Gooch Watson of  
MTGS and Jo Ann McClellan, author of  
*Gone but not Forgotten: African American  
Cemeteries...* of Maury County.

Fee: \$20

Contact Deborah Stillwell to register  
[dstillwell@fiftyforward.org](mailto:dstillwell@fiftyforward.org)  
615-743-3487

Saturday, March 17, 2012  
Knowles Center 1:00

### The Nashville City Cemetery: a resource for genealogists

C. William McKee, presenter  
Dr. Bill McKee is Professor of Education  
and Public Service Management at  
Cumberland University in Lebanon. Don't  
miss his informative talk on Nashville's most  
historic graveyard.

# Middle Tennessee

## Journal of Genealogy & History

Volume XXV, Number 3, Winter 2011

### Table of Contents

From the Editor .....	98
New Collections at the State Library & Archives by Gwynn Thayer .....	99
Maury County Civil War Claims .....	102
Defective, Dependant and Delinquent ... Giles County in 1880 (continued) by Gale W. Bamman .....	108
Defunct Colleges of Middle Tennessee .....	99
Photos from the MTGS Seminar, 2012 by Lyn James .....	121
They Also Fought: African-Americans in World War I And Coffee County draft registrations by Debbie McConnel .....	123
A Murder for Christmas: the Herrin-White Incident in Giles County, 1864 (part 3) by Paul R. White .....	133

---

*Journal Policy and Information*  
*Inside Back Cover*

---

**Middle Tennessee  
Genealogical Society, Inc.**

***Board Members***

<b>President:</b>	Sue Hairston Edwards
<b>Vice President:</b>	James E. Taulman
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Kay Gregath
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Shirley Roach Thompson
<b>Past President:</b>	Laine Sutherland
<b>Directors:</b>	Jill Hastings Johnson J. Mark Lowe Joseph L. Nave, Jr. Kathryn Hopkins
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Katheryne A. Cowan
<b>Mail Master:</b>	Juanita Patton
<b>Book Review Editor:</b>	Shirley Wilson
<b>Workshops Coordinator:</b>	Virginia G. Watson
<b>Publicity Chairman:</b>	Linda Henson
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Martha Gerdeman
<b>Journal Editor:</b>	Charles A. Sherrill

**Contributors in this issue**

Gale Williams Bamman  
Lyn James  
Debbie McConnel  
Paul R. White

Thanks to Jim Taulman  
for editorial assistance

***From the Editor. . .***

With the Civil War Sesquicentennial in full swing, it is only appropriate that we continue to include articles on that period. The Southern Claims Commission records from Maury County and a list of new Civil War-era collections acquired by the State Library and Archives fit the bill.

Soon it will be time for the Sesquicentennial of World War I. Debbie McConnel's article on African-American soldiers in the war, with a focus on black draft registrants in Coffee County, honors those nearly-forgotten soldiers.

Paul White's *A Murder for Christmas* concludes in this issue. His comments on the failures of the justice system and the long string of pardon requests made on behalf of his ancestor's murderer will be of interest to all readers.

Information about colleges in Middle Tennessee that have gone belly-up (or transformed into something else) fills several pages. While we know this is not a complete list, it is a good starting point for gathering information on this topic.

Have you run across an interesting ancestor, a humorous historical incident, or a moving obituary during your genealogical research? If so, please share it with us by submitting an article to the MTGS Journal.

***Chuck Sherrill***  
***M.T.G.S Journal Editor***  
*casherrill@bellsouth.net*

Formerly *Middle Tennessee Genealogy*. Published quarterly by the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society, Inc., a not-for-profit society, P.O. Box 330948, Nashville, TN 37203-7507. © 2011. All rights reserved. Opinions expressed in the *Journal* are of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Society or the editor. See inside back page for *Journal* submission instructions.

Yearly memberships include four issues of the *Middle Tennessee Journal of Genealogy & History*. Make check or money order payable to MTGS. Annual dues are \$25.00 beginning June 1 of each year. See back cover for details and application form.

Printing arranged by Bruce Woodard, Brentwood, TN. Cover design by Dorothy Williams Potter. Indexed in the *Periodical Source Index* (PERSI).

**Visit our website at <http://www.mtgs.org>**



# New Collections at the State Library & Archives

*by Dr. Gwynn Thayer, Archivist*

*Looking Back: the Civil War in Tennessee* is a project of the State Library and Archives (TSLA) and the Tennessee State Museum, funded by the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission.

Project staff have been visiting locations across the state and inviting residents to bring their Civil War letters, documents, photos and artifacts to be scanned and photographed for preservation. The response has been overwhelming.

Listed here are just a few of the larger collections that have come in through the Looking Back project. Each of these collections was loaned for microfilming and then returned to the donor. The microfilm is now available for research at TSLA. We appreciate each person who has generously shared their family treasures with the Looking Back project, and look forward to extending the program into more counties as the Sesquicentennial continues.

## **Benson Family Letters, 1858-1863, Mf #1988**

The Benson Family Letters, 1858-1863, consists mostly of letters written from the Benson brothers (William E., George, and Joseph) to their sisters (Mary Francis and Sinae Ann). The brothers were serving in the Confederate Army during the Civil War and were reporting to their family from Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, and Mississippi. W. E. Benson and George Foster Benson both enlisted in Cosby's Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Mississippi Cavalry, Company D, and confronted Federal forces in Mississippi and later in North Alabama and Middle Tennessee. Joseph Benson served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mississippi Infantry, Company G and wrote a number of letters from Camp Fisher, Virginia, where hundreds of soldiers camped during the winter of 1861-1862 during their blockade of the Potomac River. The brothers were sons of Hardy Benson (1797-1848) and Mary Jane (Duke) of Yalobusha County, Mississippi.



## **Moscow B. Carter (1825-1913) Papers, 1853-1908, Mf #1971**

The Moscow B. Carter Papers consist of family and military correspondence, fragmentary memoirs, genealogical notes, military documents, claims filed with the U.S. Claims Commission for wartime damages, and a leather-bound diary kept by Carter from November 20, 1861, to the fall of 1867. Moscow, a Confederate soldier, was the oldest son of Fountain Carter, a Union loyalist of Franklin, Williamson County.

**Carter House, Franklin Tenn.**

---

**Daniel Henry Chandler (1825-1913) Papers, 1862-1908, Mf #1979**

The Daniel Henry Chandler Papers consist of family and military correspondence, fragmentary memoirs, a pension certificate, and leather-bound diaries kept by Chandler from February 2, 1862, to November 26, 1864. He was mustered in as a three-year enlisted man on November 22, 1861, serving as a blacksmith in the 5<sup>th</sup> Indiana Battery, Volunteer Light Artillery.

**James Litton Cooper (1844-1924) Collection, 1861-1864, Mf #1976**

The James Litton Cooper Collection consists of family and military correspondence (most of which are transcribed), fragmentary reminiscences in the form of newspaper articles, military documents, and additional newspaper clippings. The letters and military documents date from the Civil War or its immediate aftermath. Litton was a 17-year-old member of a prominent Nashville family at the start of the war.

**John G. Decker (1840-1921) Papers, 1861-1950, bulk 1861-1863, Mf #1964**

The John G. Decker Papers include a small collection of letters written by Private John G. Decker, Second Division, 32<sup>nd</sup> Indiana Infantry Regiment, Army of the Ohio, to his family in Evansville, Indiana. John Decker and his twin brother Phillip joined the volunteer German unit organized in 1861 by Captain William Schnackenburg. The men were mustered in at Camp Nevin in Indianapolis and after training, headed south towards Louisville. John Decker's letters were written to his family back home, and provide interesting details about life as a soldier during the Civil War.

**Thomas Burr Fisher Papers, 1844-1922, Mf #1954**

This collection consists of the writings of Thomas Burr Fisher, a Civil War veteran and prominent Methodist minister. The collection is composed of two volumes of his autobiographical work, "Life on the Common Level," (1921) along with a transcription. Also included is "The Autobiography of the Reverend Thomas Burr Fisher," written in 1915. The author's grandfather, Jacob Fisher, came from North Carolina in 1814 and established the family at Cave Spring in what became Marshall County.

**Adam J. Himmel Civil War Letters, 1861-1865, Mf #1980**

The Adam J. Himmel Civil War Letters, 1861-1865, were written by a German-born member of the 85<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry, Company K, during the Civil War. Himmel was mustered into service in Peoria, Illinois, on August 27, 1862. The letters in this collection, passed through the family to Himmel's great great-nephew, are all written to his brother George, who was a preacher. A religious man, Adam Himmel wrote frequently about his faith as well as his unshakable belief in the war.

**James C. Mates (1837-1898) Diaries, 1863-1865, Mf #1972**

These two small Civil War era diaries were penned by James Clubine Mates (born December 23, 1837, and died September 23, 1898) of the 101<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the Pennsylvania Infantry, USA, Company A. James Mates was 24 when he enrolled in the Federal Army in Pittsburgh in August 1862 and was mustered into service on September 11, 1862. Mates had been working as a farmer in Alleghany County, Pennsylvania.

**General Joseph B. Palmer Autograph Album, 1861-1862, Mf #1977**

The General Joseph B. Palmer Autograph Album, 1861-1862, was compiled by Palmer during his five months of captivity after his surrender at Fort Donelson in Dover, Tennessee, on February 15, 1862. The loss at Fort Donelson was a major defeat for the Confederate army. Palmer and his captured men were sent to Fort Warren prison in Boston in March 1862. Palmer, a native of Rutherford County, was a lawyer and member of the Tennessee legislature before joining the Confederate army.

---

**Mary L. Pearre Diary and Photographs, 1863-1864, 1896, undated, Mf #1957**

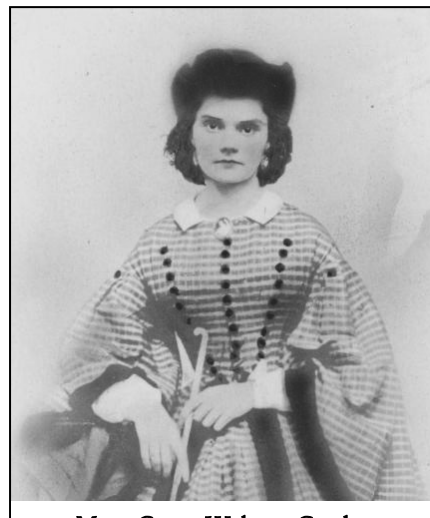
The Mary L. Pearre Diary (1863-1864) written during the Civil War, reflects the personal musings of an educated woman who was unabashedly pro-Southern. Pearre's diary offers a compelling commentary on life on the home front during the Civil War. Pearre was educated before the war at Franklin Academy in Williamson County, and afterwards married John Hall Hamilton, a Confederate veteran. She died in Memphis in 1913.

**Perkins Family Letters, 1861-2000, bulk 1861-1864, Mf #1989**

The Perkins Family Letters, 1861-2000, bulk 1861-1864, contains a series of letters that were written to and from family members during the Civil War. The majority of the letters were written by Charles T. Perkins, who served in the C.S.A., 31<sup>st</sup> Tennessee Infantry Regiment, Company D. His slave, Jerry Perkins, accompanied him during his military service and brought his body home after his death during the Battle of Atlanta in 1864. The family lived in several regions of Tennessee, including Haywood County (Brownsville) and Williamson County. The letters reveal the dynamics between a family and their slaves as well as other insights into daily life during the Civil War.

**G. F. Robinson (1840-1888) Letters, 1861-1864, Mf. #1969**

The G. F. Robinson Papers are comprised entirely of letters from George Franklin Robinson (1840-1888) to his wife Elvira J. Robinson (1840-1921) and children during the Civil War. The family lived in Pickens County, South Carolina. Robinson was a member of the Confederate 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (Company A) of the South Carolina Battalion in Joseph Kershaw's Brigade. He enlisted in June 1862 and was discharged from the Federal prison camp at Point Lookout, Maryland, in June 1865; he had previously been taken prisoner in November 1864.



**Mary Camp Webster Gordon  
of Maury County**

**Civil War Correspondence of the Wadsworth Brothers, 1861-1865, bulk 1863-1865, Mf #1995**

The Civil War correspondence of the Wadsworth brothers encompasses the entire era, 1861-1865. Predominant are letters received by Charles B. Wadsworth of Summerfield, Michigan, a farm and family man educated as a teacher at Oberlin College, Ohio. The letters are authored by his younger brothers, Elihu and Orry, who, at the inception of the Civil War, are both students at Oberlin College. Elihu joins Company H, 18<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry. Orry musters into Company B, 16<sup>th</sup> United States Colored Troops (USCT) at the rank of First Lieutenant.

**Mary Camp Webster (1840-1935) Memoir, ca. 1928-1935, Mf #1986**

The memoir was written by Mary Camp Webster (1840-1935) sometime between 1928 and 1935. Much of the memoir includes details about family history, including extensive genealogical information, but Webster also briefly discusses a few events from the Civil War as they relate to family history. Webster married during the war to Richard Cross Gordon, and lived in Maury County.

**D. M. Woods Collection, 1835-1868, Mf #1968**

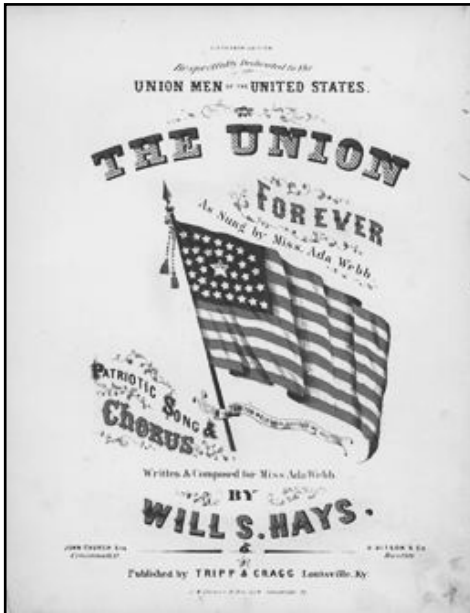
The D. M. Woods Collection, 1835-1868, was assembled by two Civil War collectors from Montgomery County, Tennessee. The materials included are mostly business receipts, a miscellaneous assortment of financial records that were originally in the possession of D. M. Woods, a Clarksville-based blacksmith and carriage maker. It appears that he worked with the Nashville-based T. M. Brennan foundry, also known as the Claiborne Machine Works, as well as the Clarksville-based company Whitfield, Bradley, and Company.

*The Tennessee State Library and Archives is located at 403 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. North in Nashville  
and is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m*

---

# Maury County Civil War Claims

## *Allowed for Payment by the Southern Claims Commission*



Following the Civil War, many residents of Middle Tennessee attempted to get compensation from the Federal government for damage done to their property by the Union Army as it marched through their towns, raided their barns and camped in their fields. The Southern Claims Commission was established in 1871 to review the claims of Southerners. Only those deemed to have been loyal to the Union throughout the war were eligible to receive payment for damages.

More than 20,000 people filed claims with the commission; the records show that fewer than one-third recovered anything. The records of these “allowed” claims are located at the National Archives. Files pertaining to those who were rejected have been microfilmed and are available at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. The files of those claimants who were allowed some payment can be viewed at the National Archives and digital versions are accessible on [Footnote.com](http://Footnote.com).

**The following abstracts are based on the claims of the residents of Maury county who were deemed loyal Unionists and allowed payment by the Commissioners for Southern Claims.**

---

---

### ROSANNA BOLTON

Resided in Columbia, Maury County; filed in 1873; age 38; file consists of 38 pp.; claimed \$450 for three horses.

#### Commissioners' Remarks:

“The claimant was a widow when she filed her petition. Her husband died June 1864. The claim is for two horses taken in July 1864, and one taken in Dec. of the same year. Her husband was in the Confederate army for 15 months when he deserted. It is alleged that he was a Union man at heart but was conscripted into the Confederate service. He was a resident of Columbia, Maury Co., where she continued to reside during the war. The claimant asserts emphatically, under oath, her sympathy with and obedience to the cause of the Union during the entire war; that she gave

no aid or comfort to the rebellion. Several witnesses testify to her loyal reputation and conversation. The testimony is not marked by strong incidents and facts showing unmistakably loyal adherence to the Union cause, a species of proof not always attainable by women who were really Union in sentiment, yet we cannot reject the proof of loyalty wholly, as nothing appears suspicious, and there is a total absence of any indication of disloyalty. We find her loyal. After the death of her husband she purchased two horses and they were employed in hauling wood for the railroad then run by the government. While thus employed, in July 1864, they were seized and taken for the use of the army. No voucher was given and no payment ever made. In December following, another horse was taken from her by a soldier, but the circumstances do not

indicate that it was taken for the use of the army. For the first two horses we recommend the payment of \$240. Claimant has married again; her name is now Rosanna King.”

Remarks from Special Commissioner Wm. H. Hollinger: “Witness Levi King is now a brother-in-law to the claimant Rosanna Bolton. The following are the most prominent Union men at and near the place: Honl. Saml. M. Arnell; Frank Dooley; Honl. Geo. W. Blackburn; Wm. F. Moore; James P. Baird; Thos. W. Keeser; Wm. Park; Hon. A.M. Hughes.”

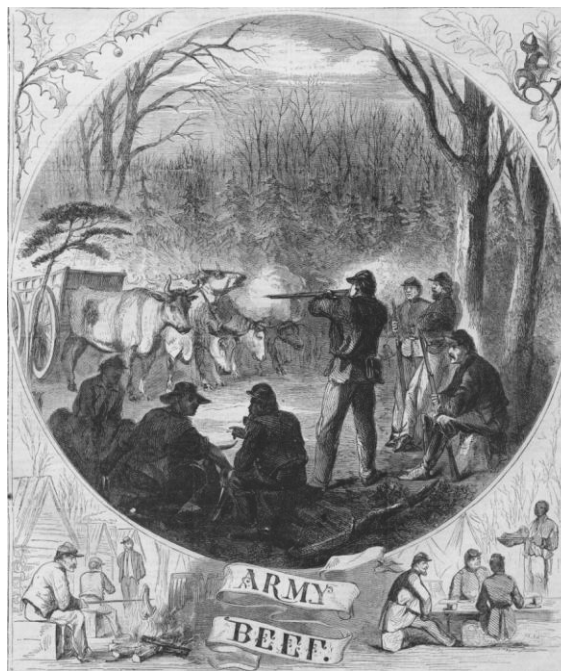
#### Notes:

Claimant lives in the 14<sup>th</sup> Civil District of Maury Co. and is a weaver by occupation. The two horses were employed at Hurricane Smith southeast of Columbia and were taken from her driver, a colored man, in front of her house. Sgt. James Dougherty and two other soldiers took them, telling the driver if he did not get down he would be shot. She was using them to haul wood for the Nashville & Decatur railroad. She later saw them in the government corral within the corporate limits of Columbia. The other horse was taken from the stable of Aaron McManus, Jr., when the federal troops were following Gen. Hood. She had four children by her first husband: Sam K. Bolton born 10 July 1856; Alleonia born 28 Dec. 1858; Elizabeth born 1 May 1860; Martilla born 25 July 1862.

Claimant was examined again in 1876, at which time she gave her age as 42 and her name as Rosanna King. Union men of her area included John A. Campbell, J. B. Woodside, Wm. Pillow (dead). “I was a poor woman and had to work for a living, and I did not come in contact with anybody but those who were old acquaintances, such as Campbell and Woodside and Levi King. I done a good deal of work for Mrs. Hughes, and Mrs. Hughes visited me often about her work....” Her remarriage occurred in 1873 after she filed her initial claim.

#### Witnesses

- Miriam McManus, age 54, she was at home near Columbia when a soldier came to her door and said he wanted the horses and asked for the key to the stable. She told him that her husband had the key



in his pocket, and that he had protection papers for his two horses. The soldier “drew the staple from the door” and took out Bolton’s horse. Witness and Bolton were sisters. Bolton had stabled the horse there to keep him away from the rebels who were on the retreat from Nashville after the battle there. Since Bolton lived on the public road and route of retreat, she sent the horse to a part of town not much frequented by troops.

- Aaron McManus, age 60, of Maury Co. On 4 July 1864 he was in town visiting Mrs. Bolton along with his nephew, Aaron McManus, Jr. When the soldier took the horses from Mrs. Bolton’s wagon, she told him that they were the only means she had to make a living. The post command was stationed at Columbia about ½ mile from her house, they were there two or three years.
- Aaron McManus, Jr., age 51, brother-in-law of claimant, and a farmer. His uncle had visited overnight and they went to visit Mrs. Bolton after breakfast. They were sitting in the house when the soldiers rode up. They went out to the gate to see what was the matter. Mrs. Bolton told the officer she did not know how she could make a living for her family if the horses were taken away. He said he was not to blame, that he had orders to take them. Witness worked his team with hers in the

---

same business. Mrs. Bolton had not paid for the horses in full when they were taken, and had to pay the balance afterward.

- John A. Campbell, age 54, resides at Carter's Creek Station, Maury Co., farmer. Has known claimant for 20 years, "she was married in my house." When he would come to Columbia on business he would stay at her home. While witness was a refugee in Nashville he heard that Mr. Bolton had made his escape from the rebel army and taken the oath of allegiance. "I had a free pass from U. S. Grant which was endorsed by every command after he left Tennessee, and I used it throughout the war."
- Levi King, age 50 (in 1876), has lived in Maury Co. all his life, farmer. He is a first cousin to the claimant, has known her since she was born.

---

### CHARLES BUNCH

Resident of Maury Co.; age 34, claim filed in 1873; file consists of 26 pp.; claimed \$361 for two horses and bacon.

#### Commissioners' Remarks:

"The claimant was a slave and the property of Mr. S. Bunch of Maury Co. Tenn., from whom he took his name and with whom he resided until Jan. 1863 when freed by the President's proclamation. From the fact that he was a slave at the commencement of the war and was in the employment of the U.S. government in 1864 and from the testimony of Wm. F. Moore we have no doubt he was loyal to the cause of the Union. The testimony shows that in 1863 the claimant purchased the horses, one of a colored man and the other of a white man, and paid for them within the year ensuing; that he owned the bacon. This property was taken for the use of the Union army in Nov. 1864 and no payment was ever made and no voucher given.... In Nov. 1864 bacon was 21 cents per pound. The quantity charged is estimated and probably over estimated. We recommend the payment of \$240."

#### Notes:

As a slave, Charles Bunch belonged to Sol Bunch of Maury Co. "In the year 1863 his master, Mr. Bunch, did not require his labor, considering him ... to be free and he was allowed to labor for himself." He rented 22 acres from his late mistress, raised corn and cotton, and bought the horses. Sam McKissick (colored) sold him a horse and Wesley Lockridge (white) sold him a mare. He purchased hogs from Albert Odell and raised sufficient pork to supply his family. In 1864 "in consequence of troublesome times throughout the country he did not farm but went to Nashville" and worked for the Quartermaster's Department, leaving his family and horses at the plantation of his late master. As Hood's army approached in Nov. 1864 the federal forces retreating toward Nashville camped all around Mr. Bunch's plantation and took the property. Presently (1873) claimant works for Mr. Bunch and is paid at the rate of \$15 per month.

#### Witnesses:

- Richard Lockridge (colored), age 22, former slave of Solomon Bunch, was raised with claimant. "He has no education and cannot remember the day of the month or year of Hood's Raid, but it was just before Christmas, a month or so" and the day before the Battle of Franklin. Cavalry troops under Gen. Hatch came to Mr. Bunch's to take all the horses they could find. They told claimant's wife that she could get payment for her horses. The officer "entered the house and went upstairs where he saw the bacon hanging up ... called to the soldiers saying, 'Boys, come up here and get this bacon.' The soldiers done as ordered and took it to the camps in their hands."
- George Davis Sr., (colored), age 36, farmer, former slave of Johnson Davis of Maury Co. Now (1873) lives on the farm of Doctor Bunch. In Nov. 1864 he was "living on the place of my old master, but not having much to do I would very frequently visit Mr. Bunch's where the claimant and family lived." He was there when the horses and bacon were taken. He went to Gen. Hatch's command and complained to two officers that they had taken the horses of a colored man who was working for the government in Nashville, "and who had left his



family and property in my protection. They told me it was no use....”

- John Davis Jr. (colored), age 23, resides at Samuel Pointer’s in Williamson Co., farmer. He was living at Solomon Bunch’s when the horses were taken. He had helped claimant drive the hogs home from Albert Odell’s. “They took all the meat, not leaving one mouthful. I heard claimant’s wife ask the officers to leave her one of the horses and some of the meat.” He told her the horses were too good to leave for the rebels, who would get them.
- William F. Moore; age about 55; resident of 22<sup>nd</sup> Civil District, Maury Co.; a merchant. His farm adjoined Sol Bunch’s and he knew claimant nearly all his life. “There were some colored folks (men) who went in to the war as servants to their masters, who could not help themselves. But as a general rule and almost without exception the colored people in this section were loyal to the government.... They have sustained the administrations of the Republican Party ever since, amid all opposition.”



---

### THOMAS W. KEELE

Resident of Columbia, Maury Co.; age 56; claim filed in 1873; file consists of 42pp.; claimed \$2,100 for 14 mules

#### Commissioners’ Remarks:

“There is no doubt of the loyalty of the claimant. He and three witnesses testify decidedly to his loyalty. Genl. Negley in Aug. 1862 certifies that he was a loyal man. Gen. Rousseau in Mar. 1864 writes to Admiral Porter that he is a man of undoubted loyalty. He marched to the polls in company with 75 or 100 men and voted against secession. Loyalty proved. The 14

mules were taken at Helena, Ark., in July 1862 by Quartermaster Rust for army use. The papers and claims at and about the time fully show it. We allow \$1,400.”

Additional remarks from Special Commissioner Liberty Bartlett:

“The claimant, Thomas W. Keese, was not present on taking the evidence. He resides at a considerable distance over in Tenn. His son, John W. Keese, who resides on another plantation 15 miles out from Helena where the mules were taken, introduced the four witnesses to prove up the property taken... I find the claimant is well-known to leading citizens here in Helena and appears to have been considered a worthy

loyal citizen and a decided Union man....”

#### Notes:

Claimant was a merchant at the time of the claim. He was also employed by the Freedmens Savings & Trust. His full testimony, if given, is not in the file.

#### Witnesses:

- George W. Blackburn; age 56; resident of Maury Co.; cashier for Freedmens Savings & Trust; knew claimant before the war. Witness has been twice elected State Comptroller since the war.
- Samuel M. Arnell; age 40; of Maury Co.; lawyer. Was a near neighbor of Keese before and during the war. Keese cared for sick soldiers and officers during the war. Witness has been three times elected to Congress.
- James P. Baird, age 51, of Columbia; postmaster. Met Keese early in the war and lived near him.
- John Williams, age 33, farmer of Phillips Co., Ark. Was a slave of claimant’s wife before the war and labored on Keese’s plantation in Phillips Co. for many years. He saw the soldiers take the mules, most of which he had broken to harness himself.

- Alexander Perryman (colored), age 43, farmer of Phillips Co., Ark. Was “one of claimant’s laborers” on the Arkansas plantation before the war. Enough cavalry rode up to fill the yard around the house, and one of the officers asked him how many mules they had, and made him lead them to the pasture where they were. Keese was out on the plantation at the time. A Mr. Turner had once offered Mr. Keese’s son \$200 for a mule but was refused as they were worth more. Witness later enlisted and served as a non-commissioned officer in Co. C, 46<sup>th</sup> Inf.
- Eli Perry, age 27, farmer, of Phillips Co., Ark. Was formerly a slave of the claimant. The mules were taken on a Sunday evening, the day after Helena was taken.
- Simon Tucker, age 53, of Phillips Co., Ark., was living on Keese’s plantation when the mules were taken.

---

### SARAH E. GILL

Resident of Columbia, Maury Co.; age 67; claim filed in 1872; file consists of 25 pp.; claimed \$303 for a horse, pork, corn, and a milk cow.

#### Commissioners’ Remarks:

“The claimant is the widow of William Gill. She swears to her loyal sympathies as well as to the loyalty of her husband. Three of her neighbors testify unequivocally to the loyal reputation of claimant and her husband, who died since the war, and Commissioner Frazee says there is no doubt of claimant’s loyalty. The claimant and two married daughters testify to the taking of the property by a portion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Army Corps in Nov. 1864 on the march from Columbia to Nashville. We allow \$240.”

#### Notes:

In 1864 claimant was living on the Santa Fee Pike one and a half miles northwest of Columbia, and the federal army falling back to Nashville passed her place. They took “all of the stock and bread stuff that the family had, not leaving a meal’s victuals in the house.” The soldiers also told them to evacuate the house and destroyed all the household goods. They took the

family to Nashville where they remained five weeks, returning to find the house destroyed. Her husband, a soldier of the War of 1812, died Aug. 2, 1871. She is a seamstress and this claim “is the only hope she has,” all her property having been “swept away by the federal army and the death of her husband....” She has five living children: Mary E. age 44; Elvira N. Gill age 30; T. Woodard age 28; Sarah E. Bullard age 26; and William H. Gill age 24.



**A home destroyed in the Civil War**

#### Witnesses:

- Sarah E. Bullard, age 26, of Columbia, seamstress, is the wife of George A. Bullard and daughter of claimant. “...[T]hey had to leave their home and went to Nashville with the federal army, where they stayed for five weeks. When they returned [they] found their home destroyed and furniture broken up, rendering the whole family homeless. That deponent’s father was then alive but was an invalid and was but little help to the family.” Her father’s military pension stopped with his death, his widow not being qualified for a pension under the present law. Col. Zallingly was present at the taking of the property.
- Nannie T. Woodard, age 28, of Columbia, seamstress, is a daughter of the claimant.
- Wm. F. Moore, age 53, merchant and farmer of Maury Co., knew William Gill from the beginning of the war.
- John P. McGaw, age 51, livery stable keeper and Mayor of Columbia.
- James P. Baird, age 49, postmaster of Columbia.

---

## JAMES HODGE

Resident of Maury Co.; age 67; claim filed in 1872; file consists of 92 pp.; claimed \$2,622 for cordwood, standing timber, hay, mule, corn, 2 horses, 3 cows.

### Commissioners' Remarks:

"This case was referred to Mr. Trimble for investigation who took the testimony of claimant and several witnesses in support of loyalty. The claimant resided in Maury Co. near Columbia during the war. He voted Feb. 1861 and in June of the same year against secession. He voted also during the war with the union men in favor of reconstruction and for Governor Brownlow. Several witnesses testify to his loyal conversation. He was very much opposed to his son's enlisting in the Confederate army, and kept two or three sick federal soldiers at his house during a part of the war. He presented his claims to the general board of Tenn., County of Maury, and they were proved and endorsed by said board to the amount of over \$2,200. Mr. Trimble, who was instructed to investigate the claim on the spot, reports that after thorough inquiry of his neighbors he regards claimant as having been a loyal man during the war. The testimony as to the taking of the property is meager, confused and indefinite, but there was evidently a considerable amount of fencing and some timber and grain taken as well as horses and a mule, at various times and by different commands during the war. We allow \$1,491."

### Notes:

A resident of Maury Co. for 51 years, Hodge lived one mile south of Columbia on a plantation of 265 acres. He lived on the Pulaski Pike and the Bigville or Campell Pike ran through his place. His son James S. Hodge, then over 30 years old, was in the Confederate army. Troops under Gen. Beaty camped at different times on his farm, some of them remaining for two or three months. A captain of the 12<sup>th</sup> Missouri came to Hodge's place to get well and, along with a private, served as a guard for Hodge at the same time. A soldier named Daniel became acquainted with Hodge's son (now deceased). When Daniel became sick he came to Hodge's store and asked to stay with them. Hodge and

his wife took care of him in their home until he became well; they have heard from him since.

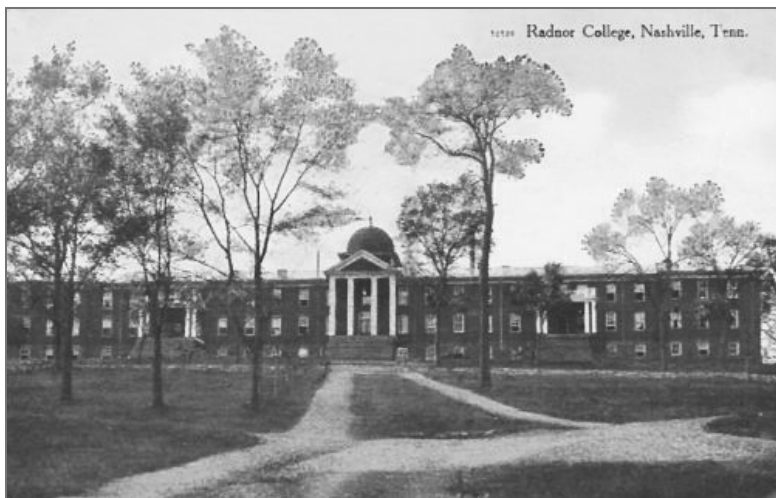
### Witnesses:

- Warrick Hodge (colored), age 63, has lived with claimant since 1863. He helped build the four miles of cedar fencing in and around the place that was used for firewood. It was a first-class fence with 10 rails to the panel.
- Sally Hodge, age 47, lived with James Hodge all her life. She was one of the female servants on the farm.
- John M. Ament, age 40, resident of Maury Co. for 30 years. He was employed by the U.S. government throughout the war as a contractor. Has known Hodge for 30 years. "There were threats made to drive him [Hodge] away on account of his union sentiments, and I believe had it not been for his old age he would have suffered severe bodily harm and perhaps lost his life."
- A. M. Hughes, age 60, attorney, has lived near Columbia 30 years and has known Hodge 40 years. John Baird was an outspoken Union man in the neighborhood.
- Samuel W. Arnell, attorney of Columbia, says Hodge was a silversmith by trade. He kept his son in his shop to prevent him going into the rebel army.
- F. M. Dooley, age 45, of Columbia, born and raised in Maury Co., was a scout in the U.S. army during the war, attached to the post at Columbia. Did not know Hodge as a Union man during the war.
- Dr. William H. Brown, age 50, has lived in Columbia since 1840, has known Hodge for 25 years. Did not know Hodge as a Union man during the war.
- James F. Gregory, age 60, of Columbia, has known Hodge all his life, never knew that he was a Union man.

Editor's note: Depositions of Brad Porter and J.F. Rankin will appear in the next issue, concluding the James Hodge file.

*To Be Continued*

# Defunct Colleges of Middle Tennessee



Sometimes a genealogist is surprised to learn that a member of the family attended college. Even simple farm families in Tennessee were sometimes committed to sending their oldest son or brightest daughter on for more education than they could acquire in the common schools. Biographical sketches or memorabilia saved by descendants may shed light on these educational connections.

The following list of schools which once operated in Middle Tennessee may be

helpful in learning more about these ancestors. The basic list was developed by Dr. Ray Brown at Westminster College in Missouri as part of a larger project. Dr. Brown's 'Closed College' work is summarized in a table posted on the internet.<sup>1</sup> Additional information from Tennessee sources has been added to Dr. Brown's list, below.

## Bedford County

- Turner College, Shelbyville. Opened in 1886. Affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Originally called Shelbyville High School. Renamed again in 1896 and chartered as Turner Normal and Industrial Institute, later Turner College.

## Cannon County

- Woodbury College. Opened in 1855. Affiliated with the Baptist Church.

## Coffee County

- Manchester College. Opened in 1878. Affiliated with the Disciples of Christ.

## Davidson County

- Belmont Junior College, Nashville. Operated 1890–1913, when it merged with Ward Seminary to become Ward–Belmont.
- Boscobel College, Nashville. Operated 1889–1914 as a school for women.
- Branell College, Nashville. A business college that went out of business in the 1990s.
- Buford College, Nashville. 1901–c.1920 as a school for women. First opened in Clarksville.
- Central Tennessee College, Glendale. Operated 1867–1900. Founded by the Freedmens' Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, as a school for former slaves. The Meharry Medical department opened in 1875. In 1880 the college changed its name to Walden University.

---

<sup>1</sup> See this url: [http://www2.westminster-mo.edu/wc\\_users/homepages/staff/brownr/ClosedCollegeIndex.htm](http://www2.westminster-mo.edu/wc_users/homepages/staff/brownr/ClosedCollegeIndex.htm). Dr. Ray Brown would like to hear from anyone who can provide additions or corrections to this list. Please contact him by e-mail at [ray.brown@westminster-mo.edu](mailto:ray.brown@westminster-mo.edu)

---

**Davidson County (cont.)**

- Central University, Nashville. Opened in 1872. Affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, it was later endowed by the Vanderbilt family and became Vanderbilt University.
- Madison College, Madison. Opened in 1904
- Nashville Agricultural and Normal Institute. See Madison College.
- Nashville Bible School. Operated 1891–1918. Established by David Lipscomb and renamed in his honor upon his death in 1918. Now Lipscomb University.
- Nashville College for Young Ladies. Dates of operation not identified, but Josephine Pearson served as president 1895–1897.
- Nashville Medical College. Operated 1876–1879. Acquired by the University of Tennessee as its medical department in 1879 and continued.
- Nashville State Technical Institute. Operated 1970–1984. Joined the Board of Regents in 1984 and continued as Nashville State Technical Community College. “Technical” was dropped from the name in 2009.
- National Baptist Seminary and Missionary Training School. Operated 1918–1931.
- Radnor College, Nashville. Operated 1905–1914 as a school for women. Affiliated with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.
- Roger Williams University, Nashville. Opened before 1887 and closed in 1929. Affiliated with the Baptist Church.
- Scarritt College of Christian Workers, Nashville. Operated 1924–1988. Affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church. Opened in Kansas City in 1892 and moved to Nashville in 1924.
- Shelby Medical College, Nashville. Opened in 1857/8 as part of the University of Nashville. Affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Closed during the Civil War.
- Southern Y.M.C.A. College, Nashville. Operated 1919–1936.

**Davidson County (cont.)**

- Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State Normal College, Nashville. Opened 1912 and became Tennessee State University in 1969.
- Tennessee Manual University, Nashville. Opened in 1868. Affiliated with the Disciples of Christ.
- University of Nashville. Established 1825 by renaming Cumberland College, and continued until 1850, when it suspended operations for five years. Reestablished in 1855, it continued until the Civil War.
- Walden University, Nashville. Operated 1860–1925. Established by the Methodist Church to serve freedmen. Meharry Medical College, still active today, grew out of Walden University.
- Ward–Belmont, Nashville. Opened in 1913 when Ward Seminary and Belmont Junior College combined, and continued as a school for women until 1951. The Tennessee Baptist Convention assumed Ward–Belmont’s debts and then opened Belmont Junior College.
- Y.M.C.A. Graduate School, Nashville. Operated 1927–1936 as a secretarial training school. When it closed, the building was purchased by Vanderbilt University.

**DeKalb County**

- Pure Fountain College, Smithville. Opened 1883.
- Lawrence College, Alexandria. Opened 1858/60. Affiliated with the Disciples of Christ.

**Dickson County**

- Ruskin Cave, Ruskin. Operated 1904–1922.

**Franklin County**

- Mary Sharp College, Winchester. Operated 1850–1896. Founded as the Tennessee and Alabama Institute, Mary Sharp was a college for women.
- Tennessee and Alabama Institute. See Mary Sharp College.
- Terrill College, Decherd. Operated 1889–1906.

---

**Giles County**

- Giles College

**Lincoln County**

- Bryson College, Fayetteville. Operated 1919–1929. Affiliated with the Associated Reformed Presbyterian church.
- Dick White College, Fayetteville. Opened 1890.
- Milton College, Fayetteville. Opened 1856.

**Macon County**

- Masonic College. Operating in 1876.

**Marion County**

- Fairmount College, Monteagle. Operated 1872–c.1918. A women's college affiliated with the Episcopal church. The future Madam Chiang Kai-Shek was a student there.

**Maury County**

- Columbia Athenaeum. Opened 1852 as a school for women.
- Columbia Institute. Opened 1836 and by 1909 was operating as a preparatory school. Affiliated with the Episcopal church.
- Jackson College, Columbia. Operated in the 1830s.
- Tennessee Conference Female College, Columbia.

**Montgomery County**

- Austin Peay Normal School, Clarksville. Opened in 1927. Founded as a junior college and teacher training institute on the grounds of the former Southwestern Presbyterian University. Became Austin Peay State College in 1943 and University in 1967.
- Caledonia College, Clarksville. Founded in 1838 and affiliated with the Methodist Church. Burned during the Civil War and reopened in a new location in 1871 as McKenzie College.
- Masonic University of Tennessee, Clarksville. Opened in 1848. After

undergoing a series of name changes it moved to Memphis and became Rhodes College.

- McKenzie College, Clarksville. Opened in 1871 under this name. Formerly Caledonia College.
- McTyre Institute, Clarksville. Opened in 1882 under this name. Formerly McKenzie College.
- Montgomery Masonic College, Clarksville. Opened in 1850 under this name. Formerly Masonic University.
- Southwestern Presbyterian University, Clarksville. Opened in 1874 under this name. Formerly Stewart College. In 1924 it moved to Memphis and became Rhodes College. Its buildings in Clarksville were the foundation for Austin Peay Normal School in 1927.
- Stewart College, Clarksville. Opened in 1855 under this name. Formerly Montgomery Masonic College.

**Putnam County**

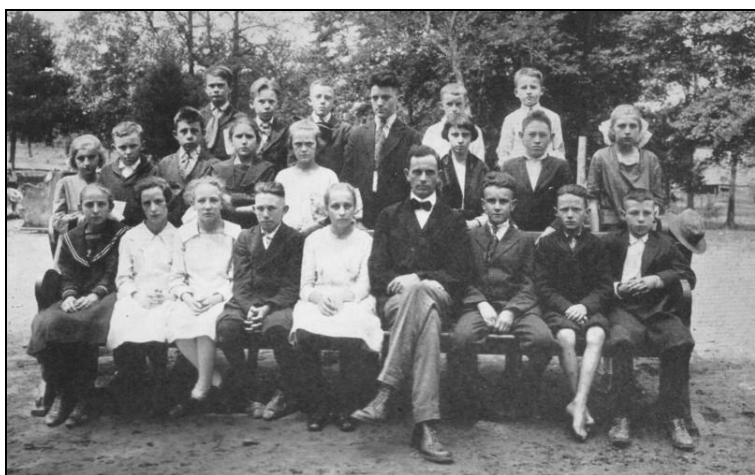
- Dixie College (a.k.a. University of Dixie), Cookeville. Opened in 1909 and became Tennessee Polytechnic Institute in 1915.
- Tennessee Polytechnic Institute. Opened in 1915 under this name. Formerly Dixie College. A high school and junior college, it became Tennessee Technological University in 1965 and continues under that name.

**Robertson County**

- Stonewall College, Cross Plains. Founded in 1877 by the Disciples of Christ.

**Rutherford County**

- The Female Academy, Murfreesboro. Opened in 1825 and affiliated with the Methodist Church. Became Soule College in 1852.
- Middle Tennessee State Normal School, Murfreesboro. Opened in 1909; eventually became Middle Tennessee State University.



John S. Templeton, Jr., and his Sunday School class  
at Burritt College, in Spencer, ca. 1921

### **Rutherford County (cont.)**

- Middle Tennessee State Teacher's College, Murfreesboro. Opened under this name in 1926; formerly Middle Tennessee State Normal School.
- Soule College, Murfreesboro. Opened under this name in 1852. Closed during the Civil War but reopened afterward and continued in operation until 1916. Affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church. Formerly The Female Academy.
- Tennessee College for Women, Murfreesbor. Operated 1907 to 1946; affiliated with the Baptist church. After 1946 the school moved to Lebanon, Tenn., and became a part of Cumberland College.
- Tennessee Manual Labor College, Ebenezer. Operated 1867–1872. A school for freedmen, affiliated with the Disciples of Christ.
- Union University, Murfreesboro. Operated from 1848 to 1858, closed from 1859 until 1868, and reopened briefly before closing in 1873. Affiliated with the Baptist General Assembly. Considered a predecessor of Union University in Jackson, Tennessee, by some.
- West Tennessee College, Murfreesboro. Operated from 1844 to 1874. Affiliated with the Baptist church. After 1874 it reopened as Southwestern Baptist University, possibly in Jackson, Tenn.

### **Sequatchie County**

- Sequatchie College. Operated from 1858 to 1887.

### **Smith County**

- Clinton College, New Middleton. Operated from 1834 through the 1850s.

### **Sumner County**

- Howard College, Gallatin. Opened in 1837; affiliated with the Odd Fellows Lodge.
- Neophogen Male and Female College, Gallatin. Opened in 1872; affiliated with the Disciples of Christ.

### **Trousdale County**

- Wirt Seminary. Opened in 1838 near Hartsville; it was later known as Wirt College and eventually as Enon College.
- Enon College. Originally named Wirt Seminary.

### **Van Buren County**

- Burritt College, Spencer. Operated from 1848 to 1939. Affiliated with the Disciples of Christ. Operations were suspended during the Civil War.

### **Warren County**

- Cumberland Female College, McMinnville. Operated from 1851 to 1896, with a hiatus during the Civil War.
- Hanner Highland Male and Female College, Vervilla. Opened in 1856.
- Irving College. Opened in 1840 (some sources say 1835); affiliated with the Disciples of Christ. Closed from 1861 until 1882, when it reopened.
- Videmour College.
- Waters and Walling College, McMinnville. Opened in 1874; affiliated with the Disciples of Christ. Evolved into the McMinnville public school after 1886.

*Concluded*

# MTGS Fall Conference 2011: A Big Success!

*Lyn James, Photographer*



Friendly faces welcomed members at the Registration table:  
Brenta Davis, Chair; Kelly Wilkerson, TN Historical Society;  
Helene Pellett; Laine Sutherland; Carolyn Cate; Nancy Candella.



Excellent refreshments were provided  
by Dottie Allen and her committee.



Above, lecturer Elizabeth Shown Mills (center)  
with MTGS past President Virginia Watson  
(left) and Rachal Mills Lennon.



Right: Speakers Mark Lowe (right) and Chuck Sherrill, with  
MTGS past President Laine Sutherland.



## 2011 MTGS SEMINAR



With attendance at nearly 150, this was a very popular seminar. Both members and guests gave it excellent evaluations.

The Brentwood Library made a great venue for the event.

Below, Kathryn Hopkins gathered many fine door prizes, while Jim Taulman served as emcee and prize-giver.



Above: Kay Gregath staffed the MTGS membership table, and many new members joined or renewed.



Dottie Allen and her hard-working committee provided refreshments to keep everyone alert and engaged in learning throughout the busy day. Members, from left: Kathy Teague; Dottie Allen; Bonnie Winn (back); Carolyn Lallemand; Lallie Wallace; Virginia Melton; Kathy Smith; Marilyn Scheuchenzuber.

Not pictured (but indispensable) are Ross and Suzanne Rainwater.

# The Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Schedules of the 1880 Tennessee Census

## Giles County (continued)



Reading Braille, ca. 1900

*Abstracted by*  
*Gale Williams Bamman, CG<sup>SM</sup>*

Copyright © 2012

The DDD Schedules, as they are often called, were part of the non-population schedules supplementing the 1880 federal census, and were created to help the government decide on funding appropriations for institutions and health programs. On each of the following schedules of the DDDs, the census-takers were instructed to give an account of the location and condition of persons who met these descriptions:

The following questions were asked on all seven of the DDD schedules:

name of the afflicted person; county and district where enumerated; county of residence; and location in the population schedule.

The remainder of the questions pertained to each particular class of persons:

**Insane Inhabitants:** form of disease; duration of current attack; age at first attack; if requires restraint; if ever institutionalized and for how long; if additional features, such as epileptic suicidal, or homicidal. Distinction was to be made between persons with deterioration of mental power, such as dementia and those born defective; the latter were to be classified as Idiots.

**Idiots:** supposed cause; age of occurrence; size of person's head [at that time considered as significant]; if self-supporting or partly so; if ever in training school and for how long; and if additional illnesses present (insane, blind, deaf, paralyzed).

**Deaf-Mutes:** supposed cause; age of occurrence; if semi- or totally deaf and/or mute; if ever institutionalized; if also insane, idiotic, or blind. Enumerators were instructed to inquire about deaf-mutes and their residences from physicians in the area and also from schoolteachers.

**Blind:** if self-supporting; age at occurrence; form; supposed cause; if totally or semi-blind; if ever in an institution for the blind; length of time there; date of discharge; if also insane, idiotic, deaf-mute. Those who could see well enough to read were not to be placed on this schedule.

**Homeless Children:** whether father and/or mother were deceased; whether abandoned or surrendered; whether born in an institution, or year admitted; whether illegitimate; if separated from his/her mother; if ever arrested, and why; if origins were "respectable;" whether removed from criminal surroundings; if blind, deaf-mute or idiotic.

**Inhabitants in Prisons:** place of imprisonment; whether awaiting trial, serving a term, or serving out a fine; if awaiting execution, or transfer to higher prison, or if held as a witness; if imprisoned for debt, or for insanity; date incarcerated; alleged offense; fine; number of days in jail or workhouse, or years in penitentiary; whether at hard labor, and if so, whether contracted out. Enumerators were also to ask these questions of wardens or keepers of any prison, "station-house, or lock-up in their respective districts."

**Paupers and Indigent:** if supported wholly or partly at cost of city, county, or state; or at cost of institution; whether able-bodied; whether habitually intemperate; if epileptic; if ever convicted of a crime; if disabled; if born in the institution, or date of admission;

whether others of the family were also in that establishment; if also blind, deaf and dumb, insane, idiotic. Paupers living in individual homes who were supported partly or fully at county cost were referred to by the Census Office, as "outdoor paupers," to distinguish them from paupers in institutions.

**For a more-detailed discussion of the DDD Schedules and this abstracting project,** please see Part I, in the Summer 2005 issue of this journal (Volume XIX, no. 1), pp. 32-40. The question "Residence when at home" is not abstracted unless it differs from the place enumerated. The additional data in these abstracts comes from the population schedules and does not appear on the DDD Schedules themselves. The interpretation of the records may contain deciphering errors. The reader is encouraged to view the originals on microfilm. If any mistakes are noted, please contact the compiler with that information.

## ***Giles County (continued)***

**Philips, William:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; partially self-supporting; cause: sickness; small head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.111; see Pop.Sch.p.1,ln.13] **Pop.Sch.:** age 13, black, male, son, in household of Angie Phillips.

**Grooms, William:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; partially self-supporting; cause: fright; large head; never an inmate of an institution. *[no page & line numbers given]*

**Little, James A.:** Blind Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 7, cataract, totally blind. [s.d.3,e.d.111; see Pop.Sch.p.15,ln.39] **Pop.Sch.:** age 13, white, male, son, in household of James F. Little.

**Craig, George Anderson:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; supported at cost of county, at cost of institution; not able-bodied, rheumatism. [s.d.3,e.d.111; see Pop.Sch.p.19,ln.13] **Pop.Sch.:** age 25, white, male, head of household.

**Hindman, Eliheu:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; not able-bodied, lost one leg. [s.d.3,e.d.111; see Pop.Sch.p.20,ln.12] **Pop.Sch.:** age 43, white, male, head of household.

**Dickerson, Mary E.:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; not able-bodied; dropsy. [s.d.3,e.d.111; see Pop.Sch.p.20,ln.34] **Pop.Sch.:** age 16[?], black, female, daughter, in household of Giles Dickerson.

**White, Nancy:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; not able-bodied, white swelling. [s.d.3,e.d.111; see Pop.Sch.p.23,ln.3] **Pop.Sch.:** age 28,

white, female, daughter, in household of William White.

**Hewitt, William:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; not able-bodied, epileptic, paralysis. [s.d.3,e.d.111; see Pop.Sch.p.3,ln.47] **Pop.Sch.:** age 22, white, male, in household of Stephen Follis.

**Harrison, John:** Insane Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. [s.d.3,e.d.110; see Pop.Sch.p.32,ln.4] **Pop.Sch.:** age 29, black, male, boarder, in household of Phil Jerdon.

**Lester, Lucy:** Insane Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. [s.d.3,e.d.110; see Pop.Sch.p.34,ln.41] **Pop.Sch.:** age 50, black, female, sister, in household of William Lester.

**Estes, Sarah W.:** Insane Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. [s.d.3,e.d.110; see Pop.Sch.p.18,ln.16] **Pop.Sch.:** age 34, white, female, daughter, in household of W. A. Estes.

**Bolin, Gid:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth, natural head. [s.d.3,e.d.110; see Pop.Sch.p.1,ln.15] **Pop.Sch.:** age 24, white, male, brother, in household of Z. T. Bbolin.

**Pullen, Lafayette:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth, large head. [s.d.3,e.d.110; see Pop.Sch.p.28,ln.3] **Pop.Sch.:** age 56, white, male, cousin, in household of J. D. Pullen.

**Kennedy, Elex:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 40, natural head. [s.d.3,e.d.110; see Pop.Sch.p.31,ln.39] **Pop.Sch.:** age 50, black, male, age 51, son, in household of Harriet Kennedy.

**Kelern, Clory:** Deaf-Mutes schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth. [s.d.3,e.d.110; see Pop.Sch.p.21,ln.28] **Pop.Sch.:** age 60, black, female, boarder, in household of Edd Martin.

**Benson, Phil:** Blind Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at age 75, cause: old age, totally blind. [s.d.3,e.d.110; see Pop.Sch.p.15,ln.40] **Pop.Sch.:** age 86, black, male, head of household.

**Harris, Jacob:** Blind Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at age 40, totally blind. [s.d.3,e.d.110; see Pop.Sch.p.38,ln.41] **Pop.Sch.:** age 45, black, male, head of household.

**Abernathy, John:** Blind Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. [s.d.3,e.d.110; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.21] **Pop.Sch.:** age 8, black, male, son; burned; in household of Champ Abernathy.

**Harwell, George:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth, natural head; also deaf. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.11,ln.9] **Pop.Sch.:** age 25, mulatto, male, "son of M. Har.," in household of Mary Harwell.

**Leatherman, Edward:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth, natural head. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.20,ln.31] **Pop.Sch.:** age 50, black, male, "no relation," in household of Rafe Taylor.

**McCauley, L. L.:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth, natural head. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.12,ln.29] **Pop.Sch.:** age 29, brother-in-law, in household of G. A. Samuel.

**Browning, Emiline:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth, small head. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.18] **Pop.Sch.:** age 52, white, female, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Lanier, M. J.:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at 9 years, fever in head, natural head. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.4,ln.11] **Pop.Sch.:** age 24, white, female, sister, in household of R. F. Lanier.



**Powell, L.:** Deaf-Mutes schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 25, inflammatory rheumatism, semi-blind; also insane. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.27,ln.11] **Pop.Sch.:** age 17, mulatto, female, wife, in household of Mack Powell.

**McNeese, A. J.:** Deaf-Mutes schedule; enumerated Giles Co. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.16,ln.24] **Pop.Sch.:** age 61, white, male, head of household.

**Oliver, Eliza:** Blind Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 62, cause: sore eyes, totally blind. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.20,ln.33] **Pop.Sch.:** age 65, mulatto, female, in household of Rafe Taylor.

**Patrick, Benjamin:** Blind Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 93, cataract, totally blind. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.31,ln.8] **Pop.Sch.:** age 95, black, male, head of household.

**Akels, Obidiah:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule, enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; residence, Marshall Co.; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied; old age; admitted April 1874. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.8] **Pop.Sch.:** age 83, white, male, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Dickey, Benjamin:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule, enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied, cause: crippled, idiotic; admitted 1835. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth, natural head. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.9] **Pop.Sch.:** age 42, white, male, inmate in Giles Co. Poor House.



**Inmate workers in the laundry at a County Asylum in Wisconsin.** (wisconsinhistory.org)

**Moore, Jesse:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor, residence, Hickman Co.; supported at cost of county; old age, admitted Feb. 1879. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.10] **Pop.Sch.:** age 77, white male, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Bailey, Martin:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied, admitted April 1876. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.11] **Pop.Sch.:** age 63, white, male, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**White, Jefferson:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied, old age, epileptic, idiotic, date admitted: "unknown." **Also:** Idiots Schedule; cause: unknown; natural head. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.12] **Pop.Sch.:** age 25, white, male, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Williams, Hall:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied, old age, admitted 1876. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.13] **Pop.Sch.:** age 82, white, male, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Hughes, Ruth:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; supported at cost of county, not able-bodied, old age, admitted, 1874. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.14] **Pop.Sch.:** age 97, white, female, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Clinton, M.J.:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied, old age; admitted March 1879. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.15] **Pop.Sch.:** age 75, white, female, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Boyd, M. E.:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied, broken leg, admitted January 1880. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.16] **Pop.Sch.:** age 62, white, female; inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Harthorne, Betsy:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied, deaf, admitted 1870. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; afflicted at birth, small head. **Also:** Insane Schedule. **Also:** Deaf-Mutes Schedule; afflicted at age 42, cause: unknown; semi-blind. **Pop.Sch.:** age 52, white, female, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Browning, Emiline:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied, old age, admitted 1860. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; afflicted at birth, small head. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.18] **Pop.Sch.:** age 52, white, female, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Moore, Harriet:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; residence, Lincoln Co.; supported at cost of county; able-bodied, admitted February 1878. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.19] **Pop.Sch.:** age 35, white, female, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Moore, Mary:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; residence, Lincoln Co.; supported at cost of county, able-bodied, admitted February 1878. **Also:** Homeless Children Schedule; if father deceased: unknown; mother not deceased; control surrendered to institution; admitted 1878; also idiot. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.20] **Pop.Sch.:** age 4, white, female, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Beshears, Lucy:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; residence, Lawrence Co.; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied, insane, admitted April 1879. **Also:** Insane Schedule; dementia, duration of present attack: 6 or 7 days; not confined; suicidal for 13 mos. **Also:** Homeless Children Schedule; if father deceased: unknown; mother not deceased; control surrendered to the institution; admitted 1879, illegitimate. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.21] **Pop.Sch.:** age 2, white, female, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Beshears, Lillie:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; residence, Lawrence Co.; supported at cost of county; able-bodied, admitted April 1879. **Also:** Homeless Children Schedule; if father deceased: unknown; mother not deceased; control surrendered to the institution; admitted 1879, illegitimate; also idiot. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.22] **Pop.Sch.:** age 2, white, female, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Jacobs, Eliza:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; residence, Alabama; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied, admitted April 1876. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.23] **Pop.Sch.:** age 36, white, female; inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Jacobs, Margaret:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; supported at cost of county; able-bodied, admitted Sept. 1876. **Also:** Homeless Children Schedule; if father deceased: unknown, mother not deceased; control surrendered to the institution; admitted 1876, illegitimate; also idiot. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.24] **Pop.Sch.:** age 7, white, female, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Jacobs, Margaret:** Homeless Children Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; if father deceased: unknown,

mother not deceased; control surrendered to the institution; admitted 1876, illegitimate; also idiot. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.24] **Pop.Sch.:** age 7, white, female, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Williamson, Susan:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied, spinal injury, admitted January, 1878. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.25] **Pop.Sch.:** age 40, white, female; inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Tharpe, Martha:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied. **Also:** Insane Schedule. **Also:** Deaf-Mutes Schedule. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.26] **Pop.Sch.:** age 45, white, female, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Farless, Betty:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied. **Also:** Deaf-Mutes Schedule. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; afflicted at birth, small head. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.27] **Pop.Sch.:** age 62, white, female, enumerated in Poor House.

**King, Sophy:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied, admitted 1877. **Also:** Insane Schedule; dementia, duration: continuing; 1<sup>st</sup> attack at age 13, confined; suicidal for 23 [*sic*] years. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.28] **Pop.Sch.:** age 55, white, female, in Giles Co. Poor House.

**Holt, Delilah:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied, rheumatism, admitted June 1878. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.29] **Pop.Sch.:** age 40, white, female; inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Holt, Lurene:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; supported at cost of county; able-bodied, admitted June 1878. **Also:** Homeless Children Schedule; if father deceased: unknown; mother not deceased, control surrendered to the institution; admitted 1878; illegitimate. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.30] **Pop.Sch.:** age 8, white, female, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Barnett Martha:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; supported at cost of county; able-bodied, epileptic and idiotic, admitted 1872. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; afflicted at birth, small head. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.31] **Pop.Sch.:** age 43, white, female, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Johnson, Martha:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; residence, Lawrence Co.; supported at cost of county; able-bodied, admitted January 1880[?]. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.32] **Pop.Sch.:** age 32, white, female; inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Johnson, Jinnie:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; residence, Lawrence Co.; supported at cost of county; able-bodied, admitted January 1880[?]. **Also:** Homeless Children Schedule; unknown if father deceased, mother not deceased, control surrendered to the Institution, admitted 1876, illegitimate; a lso idiot. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.33] **Pop.Sch.:** age 1, white, female, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Riggs, Fanny:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; residence, Lawrence Co.; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied, idiotic, admitted March 1879. **Also:** Idiots Schedule; afflicted at birth, very small head. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.34] **Pop.Sch.:** age 19, white, female, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Booker, Martha:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; residence, Lawrence Co.; insane, admitted 1874. **Also:** Insane Schedule; mania, 1 attack, not confined; suicidal: 5 years. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.35] **Pop.Sch.:** age 32, white, female, in Giles Co. Poor House.

**Adams, Amy:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied. **Also:** Blind Schedule; afflicted at age 54, cataract, totally blind. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.36] **Pop.Sch.:** age 60, black, female, inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Buford, John:** Pauper and Indigent Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. Asylum for the Poor; supported at cost of county; not able-bodied, blind, wounded,

admitted 1874. [s.d.3,e.d.109; see Pop.Sch.p.25,ln.37] **Pop.Sch.:** age 18, black, male; inmate, Giles Co. Poor House.

**Harwell, Wilks:** Insane Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; melancholia; duration of present attack, 5 mos.; number of attacks, 1; age at 1<sup>st</sup> attack, 34; not confined, requires attendant; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.108; see Pop.Sch.p.22,ln.12] **Note by the enumerator** [Joseph J. Zuccarello]: "Mr. Wilks Harwell's mind is badly affected, but not as bad as it was four months ago. He is now at home, but steps have been taken to send him to the State Asylum."

**Harwell, William S.:** Insane Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; hereditary, 3 attacks, age at 1<sup>st</sup> attack, 48; not confined; requires attendant; inmate, Insane Asylum, Nashville, Tenn.; suicidal, 12 months. [s.d.3,e.d.108; see Pop.Sch.p.4,ln.3] **Note by the enumerator** [Joseph J. Zuccarello]: "Mr. William S. Harwell's mind has been affected ever since he was a boy, but did not show any serious marks of insanity until he was about forty-eight years old. Since then he has had three fearful attacks. He has recovered from the last attack, yet his mind is affected, and he is considered an insane man."

**Miller, Samuel:** Blind Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at age 32; worse at times; caused by exposure in the war, semi-blind, never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.108; see Pop.Sch.p.14,ln.9] **Pop.Sch.:** age 35, white, male, head of household.

**Creecy, William T.:** Blind Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth, caused by conjunctive cataract, semi-blind; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.108; see Pop.Sch.p.15,ln.16] **Pop.Sch.:** age 61, white, male, son, in household of William Creecy.

**Burgess, William:** Blind Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth; caused by conjunctive cataract, semi-blind; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.108; see Pop.Sch.p.15,ln.50] **Pop.Sch.:** age 36, white, male, boarder in household of John W. Hamlin.

**Garrett, Rosa:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth, small head. [s.d.3,e.d.107; see Pop.Sch.p.3,ln.29] **Pop.Sch.:** age 11,

black, female, granddaughter, in household of Jane Garret.

**Jenkins, James:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth, unnatural head. [s.d.3,e.d.107; see Pop.Sch.p.6,ln.15] **Pop.Sch.:** age 13, black, male, son, in household of Dorson Jenkins.

**Abernathy, Mary:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth, small head. [s.d.3,e.d.107; see Pop.Sch.p.15,ln.14] **Pop.Sch.:** age 16, black, female, cousin, in household of D. Stevenson.

**McGuire, E. Jane:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; residence, Alabama; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth, natural head. [s.d.3,e.d.107; see Pop.Sch.p.16,ln.43] **Pop.Sch.:** age 58, white, female, aunt, in household of Calvin A. Butler.

**McGuire, Dosia:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth, small head. [s.d.3,e.d.107; see Pop.Sch.p.16,ln.44] **Pop.Sch.:** age 33, white, female, aunt, in household of Calvin A. Butler.

**Powers, Neill:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth, small head. **Also:** Blind Schedule; not self-supporting; cause: scrofula, totally blind, never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.107; see Pop.Sch.p.3,ln.45] **Pop.Sch.:** age 27, white, male, brother, in household of Thos. Powers.

**Cheatham, Wash:** Blind Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 32, cause: cataract, totally blind; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.107; see Pop.Sch.p.16,ln.20] **Pop.Sch.:** age 40, mulatto, male, boarder, in household of William Jones.

**Ball, James:** Blind Schedule; enumerated Giles Co. [s.d.3,e.d.107; see Pop.Sch.p.22,ln.35] **Pop.Sch.:** age 70, white, male, father, in household of George Ball.

**Cobbs, Columbus:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth, natural head, never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.13,ln.35] **Pop.Sch.:** age 40, white, male, son, in household of Beasley Cobbs.

### From Goodspeed's 1886 History of Giles County

"In 1865, the County Court part based 130 acres of land in the Eleventh District. four miles east of Pulaski, for a county poor farm, and erected log buildings thereon for tile accommodation of paupers. In 1867, frame buildings took the place of the log house, and these were replaced with a good brick building in 1884, which cost about \$4,000."

**Beaty, Joseph:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth, large head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.21,ln.28] **Pop.Sch.:** age 30, black, male, brother, in household of Eliga Anderson.

**Bass, Able:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth; cause: fits; natural head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.34,ln.19] **Pop.Sch.:** age 18, black, male, son, in household of Peter Bass.

**Reed, Charity:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth, large head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.34,ln.25] **Pop. Sch.:** age 24, black, female, daughter, in household of Christopher Reed.

**Harwell, William:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 5; cause: epilepsy; large head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.42,ln.8] **Pop.Sch.:** age 40, white, male, brother, in household of Thomas B. Harwell.

**Mardry, John W.:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at age 10; cause: epilepsy; large head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.43,ln.10] **Pop.Sch.:** age 30, white, male, son, in household of Ann R. Mardry.

**Eason, Gilbert T.:** Deaf-Mutes Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth: congenital: intermarriage of cousins; inmate, Knoxville Insane



Giles County Jail - Henry Arrington Jail									
Coats William	M	U	42						
Williams Henry	M	U	31						
Hopkins Wm R	M	U	20						
Shaw David	M	U	34						
Boffy Joseph	B	U	27						
Stevenson Morris	B	U	20						
Chairs David	B	U	44						
Brown Henry	B	U	16						
Lee General	B	U	58						
Jones Dick	B	U	28						
Greene George W	B	U	19						
Holloway Henry	B	U	24						
Wickland Andy	B	U	22						
Silberk Jennie	B	U	27						

Inmates in the Giles County Jail  
From the 1880 population census schedule

Institution for Deaf & Dumb, 2 years. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.23,ln.13] **Pop.Sch.:** age 33, white, male, son, in household of Alfred Eason.

**Eason, John:** Deaf-Mutes schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; self-supporting, afflicted at birth; congenital: intermarriage of cousins; inmate, Knoxville Institution for Deaf & Dumb, 2 years. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.23,ln.15] **Pop.Sch.:** age 27, white, male, son, in household of Alfred Eason.

**Reed, Sarah:** Deaf-Mutes schedule; enumerated Giles Co.[s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.32,ln.45] **Pop.Sch.:** age 75, black, female, mother, in household of Bickarton Reed.

**Rambo, Mary:** Blind Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 77; cause: opacity cornea, totally blind; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.9,ln.30] **Pop.Sch.:** age 85, white, female, mother-in-law, in household of William C. Hollis.

**Thomas, John A:** Blind Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at birth, congenital, totally blind; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.37,ln.24] **Pop.Sch.:** age 7,

white, male, son, in household of William B. Thomas.

**Brown, Laviny:** Blind Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; not self-supporting, afflicted at age 67, opacity cornea, totally blind; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.19,ln.15] **Pop.Sch.:** age 68, white, female, wife, in household of Lewis Brown.

**Coats, William:** Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Giles Co., county jail; state prisoner, awaiting trial, felony. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.73,ln.18] **Pop.Sch.:** age 42, white, male, in county jail.

**Williams, William F.:** Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Giles Co., county jail; state prisoner, awaiting trial; incarcerated 10 March 1878, grand larceny. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.73,ln.19] **Pop.Sch.:** age 31, white male, in county jail.

**Hopkins, William R.:** Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Giles Co., county jail; state prisoner, awaiting trial, incarcerated 18 February 1880, grand larceny. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.73,ln.20] **Pop.Sch.:** age 20, white, male, in county jail.

**Shaw, David A.:** Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Giles Co., county jail; state prisoner, awaiting trial,

incarcerated 18 February 1880, petit larceny. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.73,ln.21] **Pop.Sch.:** age 35, white, male, in county jail.

**Stevenson, Monroe:** Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Giles Co., county jail; state prisoner, awaiting trial, incarcerated 4 April 1880, assault & battery. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.73,ln.23] **Pop.Sch.:** age 20, black, male, in county jail.

**Chairs, David:** Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Giles Co., county jail; state prisoner, awaiting trial; incarcerated 4 April, 1880, arson. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.73,ln.24] **Pop.Sch.:** age 54, black, male, in county jail.

**Bruce, Henry:** Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Giles Co., county jail; awaiting trial; incarcerated 1 May 1880, grand larceny. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.73,ln.25] **Pop.Sch.:** age 16, black, male, in county jail.

**Lee, General:** Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Giles Co., workhouse; serving out a fine; assault & battery, fine: \$25.00; 100 days in workhouse; at hard labour: on county roads. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.73,ln.26] **Pop.Sch.:** age 5, black, male, in county jail.

**Jones, Dick:** Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Giles Co., workhouse; serving out a fine; incarcerated 15 Apr., vagrancy, 365 days in workhouse; at hard labour: on county roads. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.73,ln.27] **Pop.Sch.:** age 28, black, male, in county jail.

**Freeny, George W:** Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Giles Co., workhouse; serving out a fine; incarcerated 2 July 1880, petit larceny, 100 days in workhouse; at hard labour: on county roads. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.73,ln.28] **Pop.Sch.:** George W. Freeny, age 19, black, male, in county jail.

**Kirkland, Andy:** Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Giles Co., workhouse; serving out a fine; incarcerated, 2 July 1880, assault & battery, fine: \$77, 200 days in workhouse; at hard labour: on county roads. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.73,ln.30] **Pop.Sch.:** age 22, black, male, in county jail.

~~**Coffy, Joseph:** Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Giles Co., workhouse. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.73,ln.22]~~  
“Authority for erasing these four names is Enumerator’s

letter of March 10/81. (Quinn[?])” **Pop. Sch.:** age 27, black, male, in county jail.

~~**Holloway, Henry:** Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Giles Co., county jail. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.73,ln.29]~~  
“Authority for erasing these four names is Enumerator’s letter of March 10/81. (Quinn[?])” **Pop.Sch.:** age 24, black, male, in county jail.

~~**Gilbert, J.:** Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Giles Co., county jail. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.73,ln.31]~~  
“Authority for erasing these four names is Enumerator’s letter of March 10/81. (Quinn[?])” **Pop.Sch.:** Jennie Gilbert, age 27, black, female, in county jail.

~~**Kirkman, Andy:** Prisoners Schedule; enumerated Giles Co., workhouse. [s.d.3,e.d.106; see Pop.Sch.p.73,ln.31]~~  
“Authority for erasing these four names is Enumerator’s letter of March 10/81. (Quinn[?])” **Pop.Sch.:** Andy Kirkland, age 22, black, male, in county jail.

**Flippin, Jack: Insane Schedule for Giles Co. [s.d.3, e.d.105]**

Note by W. F. Alexander, Enumerator, District #7: “Special attention is hereby called to No. 4 on Special report return of Insane report this day handed to me by J. C. Roberts of Pulaski, gotten up for the census department by him. Jack Flippin is the name alluded to. I have not put him in my report. I know the boy and can see no reason for calling him insane or an idiot. His nearest neighbors say he is not an idiot nor insane. I make the statement simply to show why I have not reported him.” **Pop.Sch.:** Jack Flippin, age 7, white, male, son, in household of Joseph Flippin. [s.d.3,e.d.105; see Pop.Sch.p.38,ln.31].

**Condry, Sallie:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth; cause: Mother’s fright; rather large head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.105; see Pop.Sch.p.5,ln.17] **Pop.Sch.:** age 65, white, female, aunt, in household of Lucy C. Pulley.

**Edmundson, Hun:** Idiots Schedule; enumerated Giles Co.; partly self-supporting, afflicted at birth; small head; never an inmate of an institution. [s.d.3,e.d.105; see Pop.Sch.p.41,ln.41]

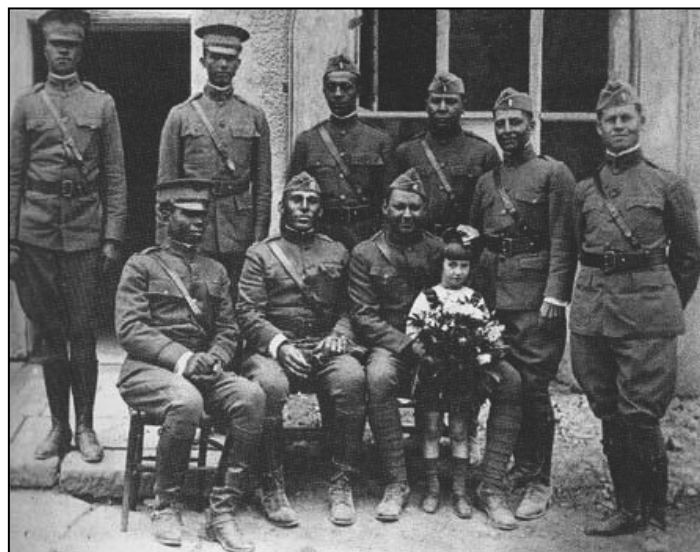
*To Be Continued*

# They Also Fought: African Americans in World War I

by *Debbie McConnel*

By 1917 slavery, per se, had long been abolished, but African Americans still faced societal slavery. They were generally thought of and treated as second class citizens. With the onslaught of America's involvement in World War I black men saw the opportunity to prove themselves. Unfortunately that was not to be the case.

When war was declared in 1917, patriotic black men began enrolling in their local militia at a rate that made some white people nervous. A reactionary government therefore stopped any further enrollment of blacks for the National Guard. They also put a hold on calling up black men already inducted through the draft. The thinking was that if a black man was trained with a gun to fight in Europe, he might come home from the war and cause riots or other violence against whites.



**Unidentified African American soldiers in World War I, with their white commanding officer at right.**

These steps to limit the involvement of African Americans in the military then drew criticism from another direction. Southern leaders became concerned that if only whites went to war, all the white men would be taken overseas and the white women would be left at home with black men. The only viable solution in an era fraught with racial paranoia seemed to be placing the black soldiers in Depot Brigades. These brigades were placed in camps to do the "dirty work." Nearly 75 percent of black men drafted were enrolled in Depot Brigades. Twenty-one black men from Coffee County, Tennessee, served in these Depot Brigades. If the Division they were attached to was sent to France, they went also—to dig trenches, build roads, unload ships and bury the dead.

In the end a higher percentage of African Americans was drafted than white men. The criteria for excusing men from service were different for whites and blacks. For instance, a black man owning a farm with a wife and children would be drafted, while a single white man of the same health from the same community would be exempted. From among the African American community in Coffee County seven married men without children, six married men with one child, and one married man with two children were inducted into the Great War.

The NAACP finally made its voice heard that there must be black divisions, even if they were all black instead of integrated units. The 92<sup>nd</sup> and 93<sup>rd</sup> divisions were formed as black units, and an officers' training school was established for black candidates. A total of 1,353 black men graduated from the training facility, earning the ranks of captain, first and second lieutenant. But problems soon began when white men refused to salute black officers.

In training the 92<sup>nd</sup> and 93<sup>rd</sup> Divisions, they were broken up by units and trained at different camps. Therefore, the officers had never worked together as a division until after their arrival in France. Perhaps because of this poor training method, the 92<sup>nd</sup> did not do well in the Argonne Forrest and incurred severe criticism. They were sent



**A World War I soldier eats his rations**

to a quiet sector at Marbache. While at Marbache, their job was to harass the enemy with frequent patrols. Although supposed to be in a quiet sector, the unit lost a total of 462 men in the first month there.

The 93<sup>rd</sup> Division was “loaned” to the French Army, who welcomed soldiers of a different nationality and color with far less prejudice than was common in the United States. However, General Pershing still attempted to persuade the French to treat these men according to American standards, writing: “We must not eat with them, seek to talk to them or to meet with them outside the requirements of military service. We must not commend too highly these troops, especially in front of white Americans.”<sup>1</sup>

Tennessee men who joined the 93<sup>rd</sup> Division may have felt like a minority group within a minority division, as they were the only southerners in the unit. By far the largest group of men was from New York, but the remainder was made up of National Guardsmen from

Tennessee, District of Columbia, Maryland, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Illinois. They fought in numerous battles,

being in the front line 191 days, which was longer than most troops. The Division, as well as some individual soldiers, received the Croix de Guerre and other honors from France. During the course of the war, the 93<sup>rd</sup> Division lost 3,534 men.

When the white men came home from war they could expect a hero’s welcome, but the black men were often met with disinterest or even scorn. Although they had risked their lives just as the white soldiers had, they were denied the prestige and employment opportunities afforded white veterans. Some bias against black veterans was based on stories of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Division’s failure in the Argonne, but there were certainly examples of white troops who had failed just as noticeably. It seems the most likely reason for this bias was the white man’s fear of black men with guns. Lynching actually increased after the war, from 58 in 1918 to 77 in 1919. Some lynching victims were WWI veterans wearing their uniform and medals. Fortunately, there is no evidence of lynching or atypical mistreatment of African Americans after WWI in Coffee County.

The following information was obtained from a study of the draft registration cards of African American men who registered for the draft in Coffee County, along with World War I records housed at the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Record Group 36. In total there were 238 black registrants. On June 5<sup>th</sup> 1917, men aged twenty-one to thirty-one were required to register, and approximately one hundred Coffee County African Americans did so at that time. On September 9<sup>th</sup> 1918, men aged eighteen to twenty-one and thirty-one to forty-five were required to register. Approximately 113 African Americans registered in Coffee County under that draft. It is interesting that one man who was forty-seven registered. The majority of African Americans who registered were from Tullahoma. The Federal Government instructed the draft officers to cut a corner off of each black man’s card so that they could easily be identified. Coffee County officials did not always comply. Many of the cards, as posted digitally on the Ancestry.com web site, are very difficult to read.

---

<sup>1</sup> General John J. Pershing in a secret communiqué concerning Black American troops to the French military stationed with the American army. August 7th, 1918. “African-Americans in the Military,” *National Park Service*, ([http://www.nps.gov/untold/banners\\_and\\_backgrounds/militarybanner/military.htm](http://www.nps.gov/untold/banners_and_backgrounds/militarybanner/military.htm)).

Most of the registrants worked as farmers, followed by laborers (probably farm laborers for the most part). The third-largest group was of railroad workers. Nine of the men were listed as Africans and thirty-nine as Ethiopians, a peculiar designation used by some officials.

Eighteen soldiers in the group studied asked for exemptions. Reasons for this usually involved supporting family or some problem with hands or feet or eyes. A few were described as “feeble minded.” Of those asking for exemptions, five were denied. Sometimes the registrar wrote his opinion of the exemption request on the card. One interesting comment was that the man had been fined for whipping his last wife and the exemptions were not justifiable! At the end of the war, two of the returning soldiers were disabled. Jos. W. Crystal was considered 100 percent disabled based on his occupation (concrete worker) and James Elliott was rated 25 percent disabled. There were no casualties among the group.

Out of the 238 men studied, 43 were called for military service, and 20 of those served in the European theatre. Their ranks and assignments were as follows:

1 Clerk (served stateside)	1 Sergeant (served stateside)
1 Mechanic (served overseas)	1 Waggoner (served overseas)
4 Corporals (two served overseas)	34 Privates (14 served overseas).
4 Private 1 <sup>st</sup> Class (three served overseas)	

By providing this background information about African American soldiers in World War I, and publishing the following details about the men from Coffee County, I hope to aid genealogists and historians in learning more about African Americans who were involved in World War I.

Sources:

Barbeau, Arthur E., and Florette, Henry. *The Unknown Soldiers: Black American Troops in World War I*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1974.

Bryan, Jami. “Fighting for Respect: African American Soldiers in WWI.” On Point, An Army Historical Foundation Publication. 2003.  
<http://www.militaryhistoryonline.com>

Coffee County 1917-1918 Draft Registration Records; [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com). Originals located at Southeast Branch of the National Archives, East Point, Georgia.

Chambers II, John Whiteclay. *To Raise An Army: The Draft Comes to Modern America*. New York: The Free Press, 1987.

Dailey, Jane. *Freedom Struggles: African Americans and World War I*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009.

Kennedy, David M. *Over Here: The First World War and American Society*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1980.

Mead, Gary. *The Doughboys: America and the First War*. New York: Overlook Press, 2000.

*World War I Veteran and Ex-Service's Records* compiled by Mrs. Rutledge Smith. Record Group 38, Tenn. State Library and Archives.

Database Key	
<b>Birthdays</b>	Always in 1800's except 00 which is 1900
<b>Occupation</b>	RR is always North Carolina to St. Louis RR unless otherwise stated
<b>Marriage</b>	M is Married, any number is the number of children, not all cards ask
<b>Description</b>	Height, Size, Eyes, Hair in that order
<b>Height</b>	Sh=Short; M=Medium; T=Tall
<b>Size</b>	St=Stout; M=Medium; Sl=Slim
<b>Eyes</b>	Bl=Blue; Lt=Lite; Gr=Green; Dk=Dark; Br=Brown; Bk=Black; Gr=Gray
<b>Hair</b>	Lt=Lite; Dk=Dark; Br=Brown; Bk=Black; R=Red
<b>Military</b>	Ind=Inducted (Drafted), OS=Served Overseas

---

## They Also Fought African American Draft Registrations in World War I Coffee County, Tennessee

Armstrong, Leon. Age 33, born 3/1/1885. Next of kin: Barbara Armstrong of Manchester. Residence: Not Listed. Race: Black. Employer/job: Bush Fisheries in Nashville/Laborer. Physical description: (eyes black, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Ashley, Luther. Age 19, born 7/7/1899. Next of kin: Phthenia Ashley. Residence: Beech Grove. Race: Black. Employer/job: Self / Farmer. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Austin, Albert. Age 20, born 4/20/1890. Next of kin: Essie Radford. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job: North Carolina & St. Louis Railroad/Floating Gang. Physical description: (height short, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registration date not listed. Not inducted.

Barnes, Cart. Age 36?, birthdate unknown. Next of kin: Wife, Ella Barnes. Residence: Morrison. Race: Black. Employer/job: E. W. Smith & Son/Laborer. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Barnes, Robert. Age 27, born 1890. Residence: Manchester. Race: Black. Employer/job: E. W. Smith & Son/Farm Laborer. Family info: married. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Not inducted. Notes: born in Viola, Tenn.

Baugh, Clinton. Age 18, born 6/1/1900. Next of kin: Mother, Nancy Baugh. Residence: Manchester. Race: Black. Employer/job: Self/Farmer. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Baugh, James. Age 33, born 12/21/1885. Next of kin: Mother, Nancy Baugh. Residence: Manchester. Race: Black. Employer/job: Wiley Hawkins/Laborer. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Baugh, Will. Age 30, born 8/22/1887. Residence: Manchester. Race: Black. Employer/job: Tennessee Cement & Lime Co./Laborer. Family info: married, 1 child. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Not inducted.

Beard, Alonzo. Age 21, born 5/10/1896. Residence: Beech Grove. Race: African. Employer/job: L. Farras/Farming. Family info: married, 2 children. Physical description: (height short, size stout, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Not inducted.

Blair, Jessie Hobert. Age 21, born 10/14/1896. Next of kin: Georgia Blair. Residence: Beech Grove. Race: Black. Employer/job: Mrs. Georgia Blair. Physical description: (eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1918. Inducted. Rank: Private. Unit: 51 Depot Brigade.

Blair, William David. Age 28, born 9/1888. Residence: Beech Grove. Race: Black. Employer/job: Farmer. Family info: married, 2 children. Physical description: (height short, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Not inducted.

Bondurant, Cullen. Age 39, born 2/2/1880. Next of kin: Rose Bondurant. Residence: Manchester. Race: Black. Employer/job: Farm Laborer. Physical description: (height medium, size stout, eyes black, hair medium). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Bonner, Earnest. Age 44, born 9/10/1884. Next of kin: Bessie Bonner. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job: Wagon Stock Lumber Co./Laborer. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes brown, hair brown). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Bonner, Emery. Age 42, born 2/19/1876. Next of kin: Janie Bonner. Residence: Manchester. Race: Black. Employer/job: J. J. Walker/Fireman. Physical description: (height tall, size medium, eyes black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.



**Soldiers in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Division, a unit comprised of African American soldiers, including men from Tenn.**

Bonner, Robert. Doesn't know age or date of birth. Residence: Hillsboro. Race: Black. Employer/job: Sam Brasher/Farming. Family info: married, 2 children. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Not inducted. Notes: born in Sewanee, Tenn.

Bonner, Will. Age 28, born 8/15/1889. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Ethiopian. Employer/job: Sparta Branch of the North Carolina & St. Louis Railroad. Family info: single. Physical description: (height tall, size slim, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Inducted. Served overseas. Rank: Private. Unit: 154 Depot Brigade to Co M, 368 Infantry. Notes: born in Mullberry, Tenn; written on the back of card "don't believe he has any dependents."

Brazelton, Otis C. Age 29, born 10/8/1887. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Ethiopian. Employer/job: Walter Smith/Dairyman. Family info: married. Physical description: (height medium, size slim, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Inducted. Served overseas. Rank: Private. Unit: 154 Depot Brigade to Co M, 368 Infantry.

Bright, John William. Age 32, born 4/6/1886. Next of kin: Wife, Nicie. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job: Campbell ?/Baker. Physical description: (height tall, size medium, eyes gray, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Brinkley, James E. Age 25, born 4/29/1892. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job: Wagon Stock Mfg./Machinist. Family info: married. Physical description: (height medium, size medium.) Registered on 6/5/1917. Not inducted. Notes: 2 fingers off and one stiff on right hand.

Brock, Kirby. Age 29, born 8/12/1888. Residence: Hillsboro. Race: Black. Employer/job: Frank Tallant/Laborer. Registered on 6/5/1917. Not inducted.

Brooks, John L. Born 9/6/1886. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Ethiopian. Employer/job: Tullahoma Ace & Coal Co./Peddler. Family info: married, 3 children. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Not inducted. Notes: born in Smith County, Tenn.

Brown, Abraham Lincoln. Age 32, born 12/13/1886. Residence: Manchester. Race: Black. Employer/job: Unemployed. Physical description: (height tall, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 1/12/1918. Not inducted.

Brown, Andrew. Age 18, born 12/2/1899. Next of kin: Mother, Nettie Mitchell. Residence: Morrison. Race: Black. Employer/job: Self/Farmer. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted. Notes: born in McMinnville, Tenn.

Brown, Fred. Age 23, born 7/27/1894. Residence: Morrison. Race: Black. Employer/job: Tom Cunningham/Farming. Family info: single. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Not inducted. Notes: born in Smithville, Tenn.

Buchanan, Walter James. Age 26, born 3/29/1891. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: African. Employer/job: Moore/Farming. Family info: married, 3 children. Physical description: (height tall, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Not inducted. Notes: born in Wartrace, Tenn.

Busby, Thomas. Age 39, born 11/6/1879. Next of kin: Winnie Busby. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job: W. J. Church/Gospel Preacher. Physical description: (height short, size stout, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Caldwel, Doc. Age 22, born 9/24/1894. Residence: Manchester. Race: Black. Employer/job: Farmer. Family info: single. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Inducted. Served overseas. Rank: Private. Unit: Co I, 802 Pioneer Infantry.

Cawthon, Andrew Mitchell. Age 44, born 2/6/1874. Next of kin: Lena Cawthon. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job: Self/Blacksmith. Physical description: (height tall, size slim, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Christmas, William. Age 22, born 12/25/1894. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Ethiopian. Employer/job: Railroad floating gang/Cook. Family info: single. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Inducted. Served overseas. Rank: Private. Unit: I54 Depot Brigade to Co. G, 368 Infantry. Notes: Claimed exemption for support of family, registration official wrote "father living and support not necessary."

Clarty, Elix. Age 37, born 3/1/? Residence: Beech Grove. Race: Black. Employer/job: Farmer. Family info: married. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Colston, George W. Age 33, born 5/29/1885. Next of kin: Jessie Colston. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job: DuPont Engineering Co., Jacksonville, Tenn./Porter. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 9/6/1918. Not inducted.

Colston, Norman C. Age 27, born 11/6/1890. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Ethiopian. Employer/job: Factory/Laborer. Family info: married. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Inducted. Served overseas. Rank: Not listed. Unit: 155 Depot Brigade to Battery D, 350 Field Artillery.

Conrad, Jerry. Age 38, born 5/10/1880. Next of kin: Lucille Conrad. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job: North Carolina & St. Louis Railroad/Railroad Farm. Physical description: (height tall, size slim, eyes dark, hair dark). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted. Notes: Left Eye Out.

Coonrad, Eules. Age 21, born 9/6/1897. Next of kin: Ora Elliott Coonrod.[should this be spelled the same as above?] Residence: Manchester. Race: Black. Employer/job: J. J. Walker/Laborer. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Cooper, Joe. Age 38, born 1/20/1880. Next of kin: Clara Cooper. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job: Bowen Products Corp./Laborer. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Cope, Harrison. Age 28, born 7/7/1889. Residence: Manchester. Race: Black. Employer/job: James McCollock/Farm Laborer. Family info: married, 1 child. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Not inducted. Notes: born in Viola, Tenn.

Crisp, Alton. Age 24, born 6/18/? Residence: Morristown. Race: Black. Employer/job: Self/Farmer. Family info: married, 2 children. Physical description: (height medium, size stout, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Not inducted. Notes: born in Cannon Co., Tenn.

Crocket, Roy. Age 24, born 6/10/1893. Residence: Hillsboro. Race: Black. Employer/job: George Howard/Laborer. Family info: married, 2 children. Physical description: (height medium, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Not inducted.

Crocket, Walter. Age 23, born 1894? Residence: Manchester. Race: Black. Employer/job: E. W. Smartt/Farm Laborer. Family info: married, 1 child. Physical description: (height medium, size stout, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Not inducted. Notes: born in Hillsboro, Tenn.

Crystal, Jos. W. Age 28, born 12/18/1888. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Ethiopian. Employer/job: W. R.



Atwood in Alabama/Concrete Worker. Physical description: (height tall, size slim, eyes black, hair

This example, the registration card for Elliott Gupston of Tullahoma, shows how difficult the cards are to read. Many were worse than this!

black). Registered on 6/17/17. Inducted. (filled out draft card, then Enlisted), Served overseas. Rank: Private First Class. Unit: Ft. Oglethorpe, GA to 833 Co Training Camp. Reported 100 percent disabled in view or occupation.

Culley, Ambrose. Age 29, born 2/1888. Next of kin: Step mother. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: African. Employer/job: North Carolina & St. Louis Railroad/Day Laborer. Family info: single. Physical description: (height medium, size stout, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/1917. Inducted. Rank: Private. Unit: 163 Depot to Company K 804<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Infantry to Auto Replacement Draft APO 705.

Culley, Chas Parker. Age 39, born 1879. Next of kin: Jennie Culley. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black.

Employer/job: J. H. Rutledge/Teamster. Physical description: (height tall, size stout, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Cunningham, Albert. Age 25, born 3/12/1892. Residence: Hillsboro. Race: Black. Employer/job: Polk Tate/Farming. Family info: married, 2 children. Physical description: (height tall, size tall [sic], eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Not inducted.

Darrell, Ben H. Age 27, born 3/21/1890. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Ethiopian. Employer/job: Hotel/Waiter. Family info: married, 2 children. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Inducted. Rank: Clerk. Unit: 154 Depot Brigade to Co A, 417 Labor Battalion.

Davidson, George. Age 21, born 11/23/1895. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Ethiopian. Employer/job: C. McManus/Boat black? Family info: married, 1 child. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes dark brown, hair dark). Registration date not listed. Not inducted.

Davidson, Lawrence. Age 18, born 10/1/1900. Next of kin: Alice Davidson. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job: DuPont Engineering Co., Old Hickory, Tenn./Teamster. Registration date not listed. Not inducted.

Davidson, Pete. Age 22, born 7/12/1894. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Ethiopian. Employer/job: Harlin Produce Company. Family info: married, 1 child. Physical description: (height tall, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Inducted. Rank: Sergeant. Unit: 154 Depot Brigade. Notes: Registrar wrote: was fined for whipping his wife, and "claim for exemption is not justifiable."

Davidson, Walter Clarence. Age 18, born 1/14/1900. Next of kin: Ella Davis. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job: North Carolina & St. Louis Railroad/Laborer. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Duncan, Elies Jefferson. Age 43, born 2/14/1875. Next of kin: Love Duncan. Residence: Hillsboro. Race: Black. Employer/job: Farming. Physical description:

---

(height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair gray).  
Registration date not listed. Not inducted.

Duncan, Fred. Age 19, born 7/1889. Next of kin:  
Mollie Duncan. Residence: Tullahoma. Race:  
Ethiopian. Physical description: (height medium, size  
medium, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on  
9/12/1918. Not inducted. My Note: I can't read most of  
this card.

Duncan, John. Age 27, born 1890. Residence:  
Tullahoma. Race: Ethiopian. Employer/job: North  
Carolina & St. Louis Railroad/Laborer. Family info:  
married, 2 children. Physical description: (height  
medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black).  
Registered on 6/5/1917. Not inducted. Notes: born in  
Wartrace, Tenn.

Duncan, Tom. Age 45, born 8/27/1873. Next of kin:  
Maggie Duncan. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black.  
Employer/job: ? Lumber Co/Laborer. Physical  
description: (height medium, size medium, eyes brown,  
hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Ealem, Glen. Age, born 1893. Residence: Manchester.  
Race: Black. Family info: single. Physical description:  
(height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black).  
Registered on 6/5/1917. Inducted. Served overseas.  
Rank: Private. Unit: Co K, 804 Pioneer Infantry,  
Prisoner of War Escort #46.

Edmondson, Garfield. Age 20, born 6/28/1898.  
Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job:  
?/Farming. Physical description: (height medium, size  
slim, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918.  
Not inducted.

Elam, Thomas. Age 44, born 11/20/1874. Next of kin:  
Children: Willie & George Elam. Residence:  
Manchester. Race: Black. Employer/job: Tennessee  
Cement & Lime Co., Summitville/Laborer. Physical  
description: (height short, size stout, eyes black, hair  
black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Elliott, George. Age 23. Residence: Manchester. Race:  
Black. Employer/job: North Carolina & St. Louis  
Railroad/Day Laborer. Family info: single. Physical  
description: (height tall, size medium, eyes black, hair  
black). Registration date not listed. Not inducted.

Elliott, James. Age 22, born 12/25/1894. Residence:  
Summitville. Race: Black. Employer/job: Tennessee  
Cement & Lime Co./Laborer. Family info: married.  
Physical description: (height medium, size stout, eyes  
black, hair black). Registered on 6/1917. Inducted.  
Rank: Private. Unit: 154 Depot Brigade. Notes: 25  
percent disabled in view of occupation.

Elliott, Will. Age 41, born 8/19/1877. Next of kin:  
Father, Howard Elam. Residence: Manchester. Race:  
Black. Employer/job: Farmer. Physical description:  
(height medium, size medium, eyes black). Registered  
on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Elliott, William Henry. Age 22, born 6/15/1894.  
Residence: Manchester. Race: Black. Employer/job:  
North Carolina & St. Louis Railroad/Porter. Family  
info: married. Physical description: (height medium,  
size stout, eyes dark, hair black). Registration date not  
listed. Not inducted.

Estill, George W. Age 18, born 3/25/01. Next of kin:  
Jim Estill. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black.  
Employer/job: North Carolina & St. Louis  
Railroad/Railroad Worker. Physical description:  
(height tall, size stout, eyes brown). Registered on  
9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Estille, Willie Bob. Age 47, born 9/10/1871. Next of  
kin: Mattie C. Estille. Residence: Tullahoma. Race:  
Black. Employer/job: Wagon Stock Lumber  
Co./Sawyer. Physical description: (height medium, size  
medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on  
9/12/1918. Not inducted. Writer's note: Registration is  
supposed to stop at age 45.

Etter, Richard. Age 41, born 5/1/1877. Next of kin:  
Carl Etter. Residence: Summitville. Race: Black.  
Employer/job: Tennessee Concrete & Lime  
Co./Laborer. Physical description: (height medium,  
size stout, eyes black, hair black). Registered on  
9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Foster, Lee. Age 19, born 4/12/1885. Next of kin: Effie  
Foster. Residence: Hillsboro. Race: Black.  
Employer/job: Farmer. Physical description: (height  
medium, size stout, eyes brown, hair black). Registered  
on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

French, Warde. Age 22, born 8/1885. Residence:  
Manchester. Race: Black. Employer/job: North

## World War I Draft Registration Card A—(5 June 1917)

Form 1		REGISTRATION CARD	No. _____
1	Name in full _____ <small>(Given name) (Family name)</small>		Age in Years _____
2	Home Address _____ <small>(No.) (street) (city) (state)</small>		
3	Date of birth _____ <small>(month) (day) (year)</small>		
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? _____		
5	Where were you born? _____ <small>(town) (state) (nation)</small>		
6	If not a citizen, of what nation are you a citizen or subject? _____		
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office? _____		
8	By whom employed? _____ Where employed? _____		
9	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? _____		
10	Married or single (which)? _____ Race (specify which)? _____		
11	What military service have you had? Rank _____ branch _____ years _____ Nation or State _____		
12	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? _____		
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.			
_____ (Signature or Mark)			

If person is of African descent, cut off this corner.

MyFamily.com, Inc. © 2003

REGISTRAR'S REPORT	
1	Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? _____ Slender, medium, or stout (which)? _____
2	Color of eyes _____ Color of hair _____ Bald _____
3	Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, eye, or both eyes or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? _____
I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows _____	
_____ (Signature of Registrar)	
Precinct _____	
City or County _____	
State _____	(Date of Registration) _____

**Although the draft registration form changed several times during World War I, this example from Ancestry.com gives a clear image of the questions asked. (Courtesy of myfamily.com)**

For more helpful family history charts and forms visit [www.ancestry.com/save/charts/anchart.htm](http://www.ancestry.com/save/charts/anchart.htm)

Carolina & St. Louis Railroad/Railroader. Family info: married. Physical description: (height medium. size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Inducted. Served overseas. Rank: Private. Unit: Co B, 320 Service Battalion. Notes: born in Summitville, Tenn.

Gill, Roy Lee. Age, born 8/19/1899. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job: North Carolina & St. Louis Railroad/Concrete work. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Gupton, Elliott. Age 27, born 12/9/1889. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Ethiopian. Employer/job: Cook. Family info: married, 1 child. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Not inducted. Notes: born in Montgomery Co., Tenn.

Gunn, Emery. Age 27, born 5/27/1890. Residence: Hillsboro. Race: Black. Employer/job: Jim Crawford/Laborer. Family info: married. Physical description: (height medium, size stout, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Not inducted.

Gunn, Orel. Age 27, born 7/19/1889. Residence: Hillsboro. Race: Black. Employer/job: Tess Gunn/Farming. Family info: single. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 6/15/17. Inducted. Rank: Private. Unit: 158 Depot Brigade, Co I 802 Pioneer Depot Brigade, 158 Depot Brigade, Co E, 6 Pioneer Infantry.

Gwyn, Reuben. Age 18, born 5/26/1900. Next of kin: Grandfather, Newt Gwyn. Residence: Manchester. Race: Black. Employer/job: J. W. George, Jacksonville, Tenn./Teamster. Physical description:

---

(height tall, size slim, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Hale, Raliegth Luther. Age 34, born ?/16/18[?]84. Next of kin: Ollie May Hale. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job: M. R. Campbell/ Laborer. Physical description: (height medium, size slim, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 9/19/1918. Not inducted.

Hale, Timothy. Age 19, born 3/15/1899. Next of kin: Mrs. Willie Hale. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job: Waback Railroad in Toledo, Ohio/Tucker. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 9/9/18. Not inducted.

Hamilton, Henry. Age 20, born 5/5/1898. Next of kin: Liza Hamilton. Residence: Beech Grove. Race: Black. Employer/job: Wm. Mason/Farming. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Hammonds, Charlie. Age, born 9/14/1872. Next of kin: Wife, Ada Hammonds. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job: M. R. Campbell/Farm Laborer. Physical description: (height tall, size stout, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Hampton, Joe. Age 34, born 9/1881. Next of kin: Maggie Hampton. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job: Coal Waignr [*sic*]. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Hibbet, Walter. Age 40, born 11/22/1877. Next of kin: Eva Hilbett. Residence: Manchester. Race: Black. Employer/job: Not at work now/Brick Mason. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Hickerson, John Thomas. Age 34, born 1/30/1880. Next of kin: Eula Hickerson. Residence: Manchester. Race: Black. Employer/job: Day Laborer. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 7/12/18. Not inducted.

Hill, Forest. Age 21, born 2/1896. Residence: Manchester or Beech Grove. Race: African. Family info: single. Physical description: (height short, size stout, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Inducted. Served overseas. Rank: Private First Class. Unit: Co I, 802 Pioneer Infantry.

Hill, Irvin. Age 18, born 8/13/1900. Next of kin: father, Jake Hill. Residence: Manchester. Race: Black. Employer/job: Hugh Snoddy/Laborer. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Hill, Marvin Andrew. Age 42, born 11/30/1876. Next of kin: Ida Hill. Residence: Manchester. Race: Black. Employer/job: Manchester Mfg Co./Lumber Mill Laborer. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Holland, Virgil. Age 21, born 4/1897. Next of kin: John Holland. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job: Wagon Stock Lumber Co./Teamster. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

Holloway, Will. Age 29, born 6/2/1888. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Ethiopian. Employer/job: Laborer. Family info: married, 3 children. Physical description: (height tall, size medium, eyes brown, hair black). Registered on 6/5/1917. Not inducted.

Holman, Buford Forest. Age 20, born 11/29/1898. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job: Dupont Engineering Co, Jacksonville, Tenn./Laborer. Physical description: (height short, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 9/1918. Not inducted.

Holman, John Henry. Age 40, born 12/27/1877. Residence: Tullahoma. Race: Black. Employer/job: Laborer. Physical description: (height medium, size medium, eyes black, hair black). Registered on 9/12/1918. Not inducted.

*To Be Continued*

# A Murder for Christmas (part 3)

## Herrin-White incident in Giles County, 1864

by Paul R. White

**The third installment of a fascinating article, set in the violent closing days of the Civil War.**

In the first two installments, we followed the ragged and disorganized army of John Bell Hood as it made its way in defeat South through Giles County, Tennessee. In that gray, cold, no-man's land between the lines of the two armies, a group of renegades, bushwhackers, or soldiers under orders accosted and shot a Giles County farmer named William Clark White. As the war wound down the following spring, one Herrin, a native of Lawrence County, was



arrested for the crime and brought to trial before a Court Martial Commission in Pulaski. Both Herrin's real identity and his connection with the Southern military were murky and indistinct in that lawless and wild period. Nevertheless, he was convicted, sentenced to death, had the sentence commuted by President Andrew Johnson through the intervention of interested and well connected individuals, and escaped from prison on Christmas night 1866, having served some seventeen months of his life sentence. We now resume with this interesting narrative:

### **The 1867 Petition for a Pardon<sup>62</sup>**

From Washington, D.C., under date of 8 January 1867, and apparently unaware of the escape, Congressman Edmund Cooper, soon to be President Andrew Johnson's personal secretary, adds his voice to the rising chorus urging clemency for Herrin. Professing not to know the facts of the case, but only such as have been relayed to him [such honesty and candor at last are refreshing!], he urges clemency upon the strength of the reputations of those signing the petition. The record next contains a synopsis dated 29 January 1867 of the then current status of

---

<sup>62</sup>Paul R. White, a native Nashvillian, is an attorney and historian. He lives and works in Nashville and may be contacted by email at [prwhitelaw@bellsouth.net](mailto:prwhitelaw@bellsouth.net).

The author wishes to thank Lloyd Jackson of Muscle Shoals, Alabama for obtaining the records of the Judge Advocate General's proceedings from the National Archives from which the transcripts of records for this monograph were made, as well as Lota Etu of Athens, Alabama for finding the records of the Southern Claims Commission. The assistance of these individuals was invaluable to the completion of this research.

<sup>62</sup>All of the following documents, unless otherwise indicated, are from the United States National Archives, Washington, D.C., Office of the Secretary of War, Record Group 153, Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General's Corps, Army Court Martial Case File 00-1393, Box 2109, W. F. Herron. Also, may be catalogued under Case File No. MM2755. (Referred to as JAG Case File 00-1393.)

---

Herrin's appeal. The synopsis was drafted by Joseph Holt, judge advocate general of the United States from his office in the War Department and addressed to the president to establish the War Department's official view of this case. Interestingly, after reviewing the petition and the Congressman's knowledge and involvement, Judge Advocate General Holt wrote:



**Congressman Edmond Cooper (1821-1911) of Bedford County supported the request for Herrin's pardon.**

It is stated that the accused was mild, gentle, and generous towards Federal officers in Southern prisons. The record of his trial has been carefully examined, and shows that, if he was as young in years at the time of the commission of the murder, as is alleged, he had fully matured in criminal capacity, as the act was surrounded by circumstances of peculiar atrocity.

Holt then quotes the same testimony of Mrs. White previously cited above to show the wild conduct of Herrin and the accompanying threats to her person and that of her children. Holt observes dispassionately that:

The testimony of Mrs. White is fully corroborated. Indeed, the prisoner, by his counsel, admitted that he killed the deceased, and pleaded the absence of malice. In view of such a record, which so clearly discloses the brutal nature of the accused, exhibited, in the case under consideration, by the murder of an unarmed man whose loyalty to his country furnished sufficient justification in the eyes of the murderer - it is recommended that there be no interference with his sentence as mitigated . . .

The secretary of war approved and submitted Judge Advocate General Holt's report to the president on 4 February 1867. A mere four days later, on 7 February from the Executive Mansion Winfred Rives (evidently a clerk) returned the file with the very cryptic notation "The President declines to take any action." Judge Advocate General Holt's opinion was vindicated. He then replied to Congressman Cooper on 14 February 1867 to advise "I am directed by the President to inform you that the application submitted by you . . . has been considered by him, and that he declines to interfere with the execution of the sentence."

### **The Third Petition for a Pardon**

Nineteen years passed, and nothing further was done in Herrin's case until another Democrat was elected to occupy the Executive Mansion. Grover Cleveland was elected in 1884 and inaugurated 4 March 1885. On 25 May 1886, Washington Curran Whitthorne addressed a letter to the President "favorably recommending to his consideration a petition" for the pardon of Herrin. Whitthorne's letter and recommendation are endorsed by Isham Green Harris. These two men were then the United States senators from Tennessee. On 5 June 1886 Augustus Hill Garland, Cleveland's attorney general, wrote to William C. Endicott, secretary of war concerning Herrin "I have the honor to request an expression of your opinion upon the propriety of granting his pardon."<sup>63</sup> The file memoranda of the War

---

<sup>63</sup>Augustus Hill Garland was, not surprisingly, born in Tipton County, Tennessee, 11 June 1832. "He received his education at St. Mary's College, Lebanon, Kentucky, and at St. Joseph's College, Bardstown, Kentucky. He studied law and in 1850 was admitted to the bar. He practiced law in Washington, Arkansas for six years. Garland's first public position was that of delegate to the convention called by his State to consider relations with the Federal Union after President Lincoln's election. He was elected a member of the Confederate Provisional Congress which assembled in 1861. He was a member of the House

Department indicate that the Attorney General was making inquiry at the President's request as a result of the letter from Whitthorne and Harris. The War Department file does not contain these letters, but only internal memoranda referencing them. The originals would, most likely be in President Cleveland's official correspondence, or that of his attorney general, as will be seen below.

The second endorsement on the file, dated 20 July 1886, after a review of the circumstances of the conviction, concludes: "He was confined in the penitentiary at Nashville, Tenn.; according to the enclosed letter, he had escaped from confinement and has been at large for some time. It has been the uniform rule of this office, in cases of this class, to recommend that the party be advised that, until he return and surrender himself to abide the due course of justice, no application for his pardon be entertained." Such was the reply to the attorney general under date of 21 August 1886, and the letter containing the War Department's response, indicates that the letter from the two senators was enclosed.



**Judge Advocate General Joseph Holt (1807-1894) was one of three prosecutors at the trial of Lincoln's assassins in 1865. Shown here (center) with fellow prosecutors John Bingham and Henry Burnett, Holt had no sympathy for Herrin's cause when approached regarding a pardon in 1867.**

Meanwhile, Herrin's family knew of his whereabouts. Their continued efforts on his behalf to obtain a pardon confirm this. A printed history of his new home contains the following reference:

In 1867, Frank Herron came to Texas and drifted around. He took the opportunity at this time to secure 160 acres of government land on the Brazos River, but did not remain and develop it. Entering ranger service he served several years and then laid down arms for good. Frontier guard duty had shown him much of the west, and he was impressed with the possibilities of the Brazos River land, so he returned to his claim and bought more land. With the discovery of oil in Young County, the Herron farm became a point of activity. Ex-Governor Colquitt was especially interested in this locality and secured the river bed rights of the state. He put down a number of wells in the Brazos at this place. An oil settlement came into existence, and though it went through the usual mushroom ascendancy, it has kept its prestige, and Herron City, named for Frank Herron, remains a community of Young County. Frank Herron was interested in every phase of Young County life, he helped to advance the many developments, lived to see the old reserve where he staked his claim a land of flowing oil . . . <sup>64</sup>

of Representatives of the First Congress of the Confederate States, and then a member of the Senate. Garland was elected to the United States Senate in 1866, but was not permitted to take his seat as Arkansas had not been readmitted to the Union. In 1874 he was for a time Acting Secretary of State for Arkansas, and in the same year elected Governor for that State. He was elected to the United States Senate without opposition in 1876, and reelected without opposition. President Cleveland appointed Garland Attorney General of the United States in 1885, a position he retained until the close of that administration. He died on January 26, 1899, in Washington, D.C., while arguing a case before the Supreme Court." "Attorney Generals of the United States," *United States Department of Justice*, (<http://www.usdoj.gov/jmd/lis/agbiographies.htm>).

<sup>64</sup>Crouch, *Ibid.*, 273-74.



Herrin appears on the 1870 United States Census in Guadalupe County, Texas. Again, consistent with prior Texas records, this one lists his surname spelling as “Herron.”<sup>65</sup> Herrin served as a Texas Ranger, Company B, Frontier Battalion from June through August in 1876. He appears on the 1880 United States Census for Palo Pinto County, Texas, District No. 155, with a wife and one daughter. In 1890, Herrin was a member of the Commissioners’ Court of Young County, Texas. Thus it is that from 1867 until 1900, Herrin lived successively in Guadalupe County, Palo Pinto County and finally in Young County, Texas.<sup>66</sup>

#### **The Fourth Petition for a Pardon**

Another sixteen years passed, with the fugitive Herrin continuing to prosper in Texas. Then, with Theodore Roosevelt in the White House, a new appeal was made by Edward E. Eslick, a Pulaski attorney. Eslick wrote on behalf of Mrs. Jackson. He professes to be too young to remember the war, “with its trying ordeals,” but states that his “father is an aged man, near the sunset of life, and from my earliest recollections he has told me of the good deeds of Mrs. John A. Jackson and her husband.” His letter continues:

They were regarded as Union people during the civil war, yet it is a part of the history Mrs. Jackson will leave, that no soldier, Federal or Confederate, or any one else really in need so far as that goes, was ever turned from her door. Her hands were always full to over-flowing with deeds of charity and goodness. She gave lavishly; she was then and is now a humanitarian. By her good deeds she has made the world brighter to many an unfortunate person.

Edward H. East, Nashville attorney, wrote on 5 June 1902 to endorse the character and mission of Mrs. Jackson, and his letter refers the president to either of the senators or the representatives for Tennessee to vouch for him, as the president does not know him. On 21 June of 1902, Associate Justice John S. Wilkes of the Tennessee Supreme Court writes from Pulaski on the Court’s official stationery, endorsing the cause of Mrs. Jackson and attesting to her integrity and loyalty to the Union. Justice Wilkes continues: “Her present effort is purely one of love and charity and I sincerely hope that you can, consistent with the public interest, grant her request.” A letter to the same effect is penned the same day from the Postmaster at Pulaski, P. J. Clarke, affirming he has known Mrs. Jackson personally for twenty-five years and has known of her reputation for over fifty years. Under date of 23 June 1902, the Postmaster at Nashville, A. W. Wills, a former Union army officer, writes the same type of recommendation of Mrs. Jackson, as does Tennessee’s Governor, Benton McMillin, on 25 June 1902. Then, under date of 26 June 1902, writing from Pulaski, Mrs. Jackson addressed the following rather obsequious and fanciful letter to the President:

My Dear Mr. President: I implore a great favour at your hands. I pray that you will grant it, and I believe that you will.

For years I have followed you, and studied you as a character that greatly interested me. I have

---

<sup>65</sup>1870 United States Census, Guadalupe County, Texas, Precinct No. 4, p. 14, household 96, Frank Herron household; digital image, *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>66</sup>Crouch, *Ibid.*, 273-4; also, U.S. National Archives, Washington, D. C. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions, # 14489, Pension Application of Frank Herron, Indian War, certificate of pension eligibility issued 4 January 1919.



never met you face to face, yet I would rather see you, and know you, than any man living. Pardon me, and allow me to give you my impressions of you that I have gleaned from various sources. I know you for a brave and fearless man with a grand spirit of coolness and extraordinary firmness on all occasions. A man of remarkable clear and logical brain, and in a measure free from sectional prejudice. A man who, when he hears truths, and the situation is made clear to him, will weigh the facts unbiased and meet [*sic*] out justice, mercy, and sympathy to the long suffering and repentant human being without stopping to theorize; or to care what may be the comments where he sees it right and merciful to act, and pardon a transgression committed in the heat and craze of a great civil turmoil.

Now that you are our honored and esteemed President, the youngest President that ever held the reins of our government, and walking in the path of your convictions with firmness and courage; I hold you, if possible, in higher admiration. And courtesy, Mr. President, would not allow me to express myself thus in your presence! But at this distance, you will please allow me to speak my true sentiments and pardon me? And do not attribute it to flattering, of which I am incapable.

The favor I ask at your hands is this; and I will be as brief as possible with any explanation and my request. I beg you, Mr. President, for the pardon of Frank Herron -- a Confederate soldier -- for the killing of a Union man in Lawrence Co., this state, who refused to give his horses for the use of the Confederate Service. Herron was a boy of 17 years old, and was ordered by his Captain to shoot, and he obeyed the order. He was soon after captured in battle by the Federals and sent in chains to a Northern prison where he remained two years. After peace was restored, he was brought to Pulaski and tried for murder by a "Drum-Head Court Marshal" [*sic*] and condemned to be hung. He had no witnesses, all his comrades having fled, not knowing what their fate might be. The U. S. flag was flying from every public building. Still blood was flowing. Death busy! Many were taken from prison for misdemeanors charged to them, as No. 1, 2, 3, 4, etc., and hung or shot to death. We grew sick of blood. The boy prisoner cried piteously, saying he would be lost if hurried to death, and begged for mercy and time to prepare for his terrible fate!

Through the intercession of my late husband, John A. Jackson, and other representative men, and the prisoner's relatives, I appealed to Gen'l. Geo. H. Thomas, whose Headquarters were in Nashville, for a respite. He granted fifteen days. Through the same influence, I started to Washington to beg a commutation of the prisoner's sentence from President Johnson. I was successful. Instead of hanging, he was sent for life to the penitentiary. The sentence was so extreme I implored the President, that in consideration of his terrible sufferings and his youth, to make the sentence lighter. He did. However, to the prisoner and the public, the sentence was understood to be for life. To me, the President promised a pardon for him ere his term expired, if the people desired it. In less than two years, he was aided to escape from prison and fled. He is reported to be a good citizen, has a wife and two grown daughters, and implores of you, through me, a pardon for his crime, and thus remove the continued dread that haunts him and ruins his life. His daughters are



Fanny Moffatt Jackson

---

in ignorance of the terrible situation under which he lives! And the old father and mother whose lives have been darkened by his crime, and who live with the same dread shadowing their home -- that at some hour he may be severed from his family and returned to prison. I beg and implore you, Mr. President, to pardon him? The citizens are anxious for his pardon and looking to you hopefully for this great kindness and mercy; and I -- I will bless you with my last breath, and while living, my heart shall ever turn to you in the deepest gratitude. Our Great Father, who blesses all good and noble deeds, will bless you. With esteem and admiration, Yours,

[signed] Mrs. John A. Jackson.

Mrs. Jackson missed her calling; she should have been a novelist. George H. Riddle, writing on 27 June 1902, again vouches for the truthfulness and integrity of Mrs. Jackson, and describes himself as writing a letter from "a humble source, from one of the plain people." The White House then sent the matter to the secretary of war "for acknowledgment and consideration, by direction of the president." The referral was sent 7 July 1902. George B. Davis, the judge advocate general, under date of 21 July 1902 then prepared another synopsis of the facts in the case. This synopsis reviews the testimony of the widow, quotes from Herrin's father's letter of 1866, quotes extensively from the letter of Mrs. Jackson dated 26 June 1902, as well as Chancellor Noah's letter of 16 November 1886, and this time concludes:

While it is not the practice of the Department to grant any clemency to fugitives from justice, the case in judgment presents novel features.

It would seem that in 1886 the whereabouts of Herron were either known to the War Department, or could have been easily ascertained, but no action looking to his apprehension seems to have been taken.

In view of the circumstances of the case and the desire on the part of the good citizens to forget the horrors of the period when the offence was committed, I recommend that the unexecuted part of Herron's sentence be remitted, but that a full pardon be not given.

### **President Roosevelt Commutes the Sentence**

William Cary Sanger, acting secretary of war, endorsed the recommendation of the judge advocate general on 25 August 1902, and so advised Mrs. Jackson by letter of 23 September 1902. The endorsement and report were returned to the attorney general's office 24 September 1902. In the meantime, frustrated by the delay, Mrs. Jackson had written to the attorney general 19 August 1902, requesting action as the matter had been sent some time earlier and she had a receipt for its delivery. She wrote more insistently on 1 September 1902, this last letter rather lacking the humility of her previous letters and touting her own achievements in the war as "neither Rebel nor Secessionist, Unionist from the beginning to the end of hostilities, I and my husband worked for the suffering of humanity [*sic*]: to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked wherever found during that cruel, dark, and bitter struggle." The last item in the War Department file is a letter from Mrs. Jackson dated 8 October 1902 expressing her gratitude to the secretary of war for his assistance, and requesting that he also advise the judge advocate general of her thanks.

This was hardly the exoneration sought by his family's efforts or the many years of work by Mrs. Jackson. Nor was it the result announced by the Pulaski newspaper editor (not at all surprising when one contemplates the way the press of today still inaccurately distorts the reporting of the news for the benefit of either some hidden agenda

or outright sensationalism). In some tortured way, Herrin lived out his life sentence in his mind, and the failure to grant a pardon was the only justice left to the family of the victim. Human justice is seldom perfect, and in that day as in our own, the sentence exacted is seldom satisfactory to all concerned. But retelling the facts of the case affords a valuable lesson to those who would give it as their opinion that our justice of today is less perfect than in time past. The legal, social and political maneuvers brought to bear in behalf of Herrin are, if anything, more involved than what would be the norm today. That they were not more successful speaks to the belief of those involved that Herrin was guilty of the crime with which he had been charged. He may not have served out his jail sentence, but he served a sentence nonetheless and he failed to be exonerated.

*The Pulaski Citizen* edition of Thursday, October 23, 1902, contains the following article on page one:

**A Romance - Wm. F. Herron Receives Pardon After Long Exile** - Woven in the warp and woof of a civil war drama in the life story of a Tennessee soldier, who now, after long years of exile in foreign countries, is restored to native land and home. In

1865, Wm. F. Herron, a Confederate soldier, 17 years of age, was held in prison at Nashville, under sentence of death by hanging. As the time for the execution drew near, Mrs. Jno. A. Jackson, of Pulaski, now a visitor to Franklin, interested herself in the young soldier's behalf, and gaining a fifteen day respite from Gen. Thomas, hastened to Washington and appealed to President Johnson for clemency.<sup>67</sup> Her efforts met with success in that the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. While this was little encouragement to the doomed man, it was a rescue from the scaffold and the best that could be done, owing to the strenuousness of the times.

A little more than a year afterward Herron made his escape through an aperture in the prison wall, and, clothed in feminine attire, fled to a foreign country and there becoming a fugitive and wanderer upon the face of the earth. And now, after all these years, he has returned to his native land and to the friend of his former days whose influence has again been exerted in his behalf. In a letter to Mrs. Jackson, apprizing her of his return to this country, Herron stated that the cloud over his life seemed darker now, if possible, than ever before, and he was now a man of family and there were loved ones clinging to him for protection. Mrs. Jackson at once wrote a letter to the President, explaining the circumstances of the case, and begging his influence with the Judge Advocate General of the War Department in securing a pardon, her efforts being rewarded by a recent communication from the department, bearing the welcome tidings that the unexecuted part of Herron's sentence was remitted. Mrs. Jackson has forward [sic] the pardon papers, and Wm. F. Herron, Confederate soldier is again a free man, surrounded by a happy family, who will rejoice that the cloud has been lifted from his life. - M. L. C. in the Franklin Review Appeal.



**William Frank Herrin**  
**Never received a pardon for his murder**  
**of William Clark White in 1864**

Then in the *Giles County Historical Society Bulletin*, Vol. XXVII, April 2001, pp.16-17 appeared the following:

---

<sup>67</sup> This was Fannie Moffat, wife of Jonathan Ajax "Johnny" Jackson, erstwhile Sheriff of Giles County, Tennessee 1842-1848. The general referenced is George H. Thomas, commander of the federal forces at Nashville.

---

**A Man Long Ago Sentenced to Hang Secures a Pardon - A Story of Loyalty, Regrets, Forgiveness, Compassion, and a Happy Ending From the pages of the Pulaski Citizen, October 23, 1902-edition.** The proverb that truth is stranger than fiction was verified in Pulaski last week. In order to tell the story we must begin at the home of a Lawrence County farmer [*sic*], a Union man by the name of White in the dark days of the civil war. A squad of Confederate soldiers, on the lookout for men and horses that could be pressed into service, approached this Lawrence County farmer and asked where were his two sons and their two horses. Mr. White said his sons should not fight against their country's flag and refused to tell where they were in hiding. The officer in command of the recruiting squad, probably under the influence of liquor, thereupon pronounced him a Union man, a traitor to this Confederacy, and ordered him shot down. W. F. Herron, a youth of 17, in obedience to the officer's command, raised his carbine and fired a fatal bullet which resulted in the instant death of Mr. White standing at his own door.

This was merely an incident of war and perhaps young Herron thought little of it. Later he was captured in battle and sent to Altoa, [*sic*, Alton?] Ill., where he remained in prison until this portion of Tennessee passed under military government. Then he was returned to Pulaski and tried for the murder of a loyal citizen. The trial was like many others in those dark days. Conviction and sentence followed as a matter of course. The day before that set for the execution Mrs. John A. Jackson called to see the prisoner at the jail. She spoke kindly to him and wrote a letter for him to his loved ones. Then as she bade him good bye he appealed to her with all the earnestness of his soul, "Save me, Mrs. Jackson, save me! If I die tomorrow, I go to destruction." Such an appeal could not fail to touch her heart. She wrote a letter to General Thomas asking for a respite that the young man might prepare for death, and the General granted a respite for fifteen days. Then at the solicitation of a committee of prominent citizens, Mrs. Jackson went to Washington to plead with President Johnson for the life of the young man whom she had seen but twice, once when she went to visit him in prison and again when she came to him with a respite. After much trouble and delay Mrs. Jackson secured an interview with the President and succeeded in persuading him to commute the sentence to life imprisonment. Indeed, the President told her confidentially that he would pardon the young man before the expiration of his term, but at that time he would simply commute the sentence to life imprisonment.

But the young convict, not knowing of this secret agreement, saw an opportunity to escape from prison, seized it, and in the disguise of a woman, fled. He went into Mexico and later located in one of the western counties of Texas, where the railroad and telegraph have not yet penetrated. In time Herron married and now has two grown up daughters, one of whom is named in fond memory, Fanny Jackson, but the daughters do not yet know of the storm cloud which all these years has hovered above their father, and they have never known how the thought of being torn from the bosom of his happy little family, and consigned to a felon's cell in federal penitentiary has haunted him.

Not long ago Herron summoned up enough courage to breath [*sic*, break?] the long silence which has entombed him for nearly forty years, and again appealed to Mrs. Jackson to intercede for a pardon. Realizing what a terrible blow it would be to his family if his secret should become known, she undertook the task, and formulating such an appeal as very few men could resist, sent it to President Roosevelt. Last week the pardon came. The rest of the sentence is remitted and Frank Herron is now a free man for the first time since the Civil War. It was our fortune Saturday

---

afternoon to drop into the Express office and see this precious document as it started from Pulaski to its destination in Western Texas, where the nearest Express office is twenty miles from the home of Frank Herron. He knows nothing of the pardon yet - will perhaps get it about the time our subscribers read this story. Who shall say that his thanksgiving this year will not be sincere? And how many will join him in a prayer for blessings upon her whose patient and persistent work has removed the cloud which threatened to burst upon that home at any moment.

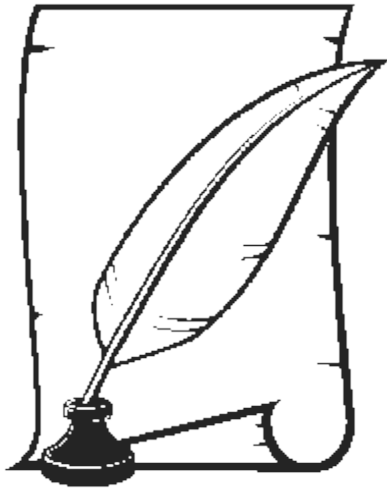
A version of this story, substantially identical, appears in *The Confederate Veteran*, Volume XI, p. 111, 1903, authored by W. B. Romine, editor of *The Pulaski Citizen*. There is this further newspaper account from *The Pulaski Citizen*, November 6, 1902-edition:

**Relative of Murdered Man Tells the Story** - - To the Editor of the Citizen: I see in your paper of October 23, an article stating that Frank Herron has just received a pardon from a life sentence for killing a man by the name of White during the civil war. Your article is incorrect in a good many instances and I hope you will allow me, as a nephew of the murdered man, and one who knows the facts, to state them through your paper. Mr. White did not live in Lawrence county, but lived on Little Shoal creek in Giles county, Tenn. Herron was not a Confederate soldier, but belonged to a band of Bushwhackers that infested the Southern part of Giles county, and the northern part of Limestone county, Ala., in 1864, murdering and terrifying the citizens.

And on Dec. 24, 1864, Frank Herron and his band went to Clark White's, first going to the barn where a faithful old Negro was at work. They abused and cuffed him around to make tell where the horses were, which he could not do, as he didn't know where they were. They then rode to the house, Frank Herron with his pistol in his hand. And as Mr. White and his wife stepped out at the door he raised his pistol and fired, killing him dead by the side of his wife. There were no words passed between Mr. White and Herron, nor any of his squad, neither did any officer at the time order him to shoot. White's wife was at the time in a very delicate condition, and gave birth to a child next morning, and that child is now a man living on Shoal creek, near the place where his father was killed. Neither was Frank Herron a 17 year old boy as claimed, but a man between 20 and 25 years of age at the time. After Herron had shot White, he said: D'n him! He had good horses and we couldn't get them.' The band that Herron belonged to killed other men in this section which were willful murders. They killed Silas Wray, Frank Calbert, - Pennington and Sam Sledge, who was a poor half-witted creature.

Two of the band were tried in Pulaski by a court martial charged with murder, arson and robbery, found guilty and sentenced to be shot. And they were shot in August 1865, in front of where John Judkins' dwelling house now stands. The remainder of the band or squad, like Herron, had to leave the country and go into exile. Not one of them ever returned to this country again. Frank Herron was ably defended during his trial. The proof was conclusive against him. He was found guilty and sentenced to hang. S. M. White, Prospect, Tenn.

There is no indication that Frank Herrin was ever involved in any more legal trouble. Apparently, his life in Texas was that of a productive, exemplary businessman and father. Perhaps he attained a measure of rehabilitation, which, after all, is supposed to be the purpose of imprisonment, rather than retribution. And conditions at the old Tennessee State Penitentiary at the corner of present day Church and McMillan Streets were so deplorable at the time Herrin spent time there, that when then Military Governor Andrew Johnson committed many of the socially



and politically prominent citizens of middle Tennessee there during the war for their refusal to take the loyalty oath, it engendered in them a devotion to prison and penal reform that culminated in the construction of a totally new prison facility outside Nashville. Imprisonment there for sixteen odd months in 1865-66 could not fail to have made a lifelong impression upon the mind of an eighteen year old farm boy turned soldier and murderer. And so on Saturday, 27 May 1922, after several months of declining health, while walking in his yard he suffered a paralyzing stroke. He suffered several more in the following days and died on Wednesday, 31 May 1922.<sup>68</sup> If not a peaceful life, at least Herrin had a life, which he denied to William Clark White.<sup>69</sup> Apparently, that fact tormented his existence for much of the remainder of his life.

A rather glowing obituary notice appears in the *Confederate Veteran*.<sup>70</sup> The Graham, Texas newspaper, Herrin's new home,<sup>71</sup> contains a thorough account of his war services conveniently omitting the events of the murder in Giles County that led to his conviction, and published posthumously, the notice of his death having appeared in the same paper 1 June, 1922. The source of the information in the newspaper article about his service seems to come from Mamie Yearly of McGregor, Texas.<sup>72</sup> It would seem to be safe to say that with the detail contained in Herrin's reminiscence and the obvious feeling engendered years later in retelling the facts of his convalescence following his wounding in Raymond, Mississippi, that his mind remained clear, his memory unclouded about these events and the impression made at the time remained vivid and fresh in his recollection for a long time. It becomes significant, then, that he omits from the narrative any reference to the events in Giles County in 1864 or his subsequent imprisonment in Tennessee. The inference becomes clear that this phase of his life also continued to cast a shadow upon his existence long years afterward, just as did the kindnesses he experienced in the McDonald household at Raymond during recovery from his war wound. The fact that so much time was expended in seeking a pardon, that his father and others in his family exhausted all personal and political contacts to that end through three presidential administrations covering a period of some thirty-eight years, and that he continued to beg aid from Mrs. Jackson shows that the events surrounding the murder of William Clark White were never far from his thoughts. He may have escaped the hangman's noose and a prison cell, but Herrin lived out his life looking over his shoulder until 1903 awaiting the arrest that would undo all of his life's achievements and the peace of his little family, the children of which, if the applications for presidential pardon are to be believed, knew nothing of his war record in Giles County, Tennessee. Lastly, when relief finally came, he was not granted the pardon he so desperately craved, but his sentence of life imprisonment was merely commuted to time already served in the Tennessee penitentiary.

Roger Bailey White of Chattanooga, a descendant of the murdered man, related a story about his great aunt Jewel White, youngest and last alive of Thomas Bailey White's children, (and a granddaughter of William Clark White). Jewel told Roger's father, Orval Wayne White, when the latter was 58 or 59 years of age and was removing her to a nursing home in Wichita, Kansas (about 1976 or 1977), the story of the murder of William Clark White

<sup>68</sup>The *Graham Leader*, Graham, Texas, Thursday, 1 June 1922.

<sup>69</sup>Lota M. "Mickie" Etu reports having found a marriage record for Fanny Jackson Herron in Graham, Young County, Texas. Apparently, this daughter of Frank Herrin was named for his benefactor and friend of so many years. See also *Pulaski Citizen* article of 23 October 1902, 32, *supra*.

<sup>70</sup>*Confederate Veteran*, Vol. XXXI, 1923, 66.

<sup>71</sup>The *Graham Leader*, Graham, Texas, Thursday, June 8, 1922

<sup>72</sup>Mamie Yearly, *Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray, 1861-1865* (Dallas, Texas: Smith & Lamar, press of Wilkerson Printing Co., 1912), 329-31.

related above and showing him the hat and blanket, since destroyed, which the victim was wearing when he was murdered. The story had been told to her by John Wesley White, her uncle, on his deathbed, dying from a brain tumor. She related how some sixty-five years later the memory was so painful that he could not tell the story without losing all composure. He had been hiding in the barn that dreadful Christmas eve and was a witness to the entire episode. Jewel White further related that two of the brothers, [and she knew which ones, but Orval Wayne White did not provide that detail to Roger Bailey White] went to Texas and killed William Frank Herrin. Your author has worked with family lore and legend in preparing genealogies for some thirty-seven odd years now. One of the salient



**Texas vigilantes**

features of family lore is that all of it contains elements of truth somewhere in the story. The example just recounted, however, is indicative of the danger of too much reliance upon these stories without additional corroboration.

That William Clark White was murdered by William Frank Herrin would now seem to admit of no further contradiction. That Herrin was himself in turn murdered is not supportable by the known record. That two of William Clark White's sons avenged his death on others of the murderous band is possible, but they most certainly did not avenge the murder by killing Herrin.<sup>73</sup> And with the state of the research at this juncture, that is all that can be made of Jewel White's tale without making further inquiry into the subsequent history of the others involved in the murder. Jewel White probably had the fact of the revenge trip and murders right, but, with the passage of time, the identity of the victims has become obscured. It would seem the logical persons to track down would have been the Tucker boys, Major Gilbert and his brother. But the names of others were mentioned in Santford Monroe White's letter to the editor of the *Pulaski Citizen* of November 1902, cited above. What was the fate of the Tucker brothers, Van Buren Gilbert, and whether any of the Whites were involved in the demise of Major Gilbert will need to await another story. Perhaps further research into the untimely end of Dr. Van Buren Gilbert, or the other members of the gang identified in the trial transcript, might reveal a connection with Jewell White's account of the revenge killing.

<sup>73</sup> As an interesting aside, the probate records of Limestone County, Alabama reflect that Major Gilbert was killed in some dispute that arose with a business partner over a sales transaction involving the sale of a herd of hogs. Apparently, Major Gilbert drove the herd of hogs to market in Nashville, Tennessee and returned to advise the partner that the money was tied up in some sort of transactional problem. When the partner made a trip to Nashville and discovered Gilbert had received the money, he returned and killed Gilbert (see Footnote 57 preceding, Part II, Vol. XXV, No. 2, Fall 2011, 81. For a more complete account of this affray, see "Fatal Encounter Tragic Result of An Old Feud", *Memphis Daily Avalanche*, 20 February 1868, page 1, citing *The Nashville Banner*, 19 February 1868.). Thomas Henry Gilbert, born in 1831, in Gilbertsboro, Limestone County, Alabama, raised troops at that place in September 1861. He served throughout the war, attained the rank of Major, and died 13 February 1868. Austin, Jerrye Todd, *Confederate Soldiers from Limestone County, Alabama*, (Athens, Alabama: Joseph E. Johnston Camp # 198, United Daughters of the Confederacy, 1996), pp. 63, 97. He had a brother, Van Buren Gilbert, born in Gilbertsboro, Limestone County, Alabama, who began a medical practice in Limestone County, Alabama in 1857. He married Pheby Jennie Nelson 29 September 1861, died 19 December 1870 and was buried in the Gilbert Cemetery, Giles County, Tennessee. *Ibid.*, 63-64, 181-82. Perhaps further research into the untimely end of these two men might reveal some connection with Jewel White's account of the revenge killing.

---

It is fashionable now in the popular mind to speak of “the good old days” when the general state of affairs and the orderliness of society were somehow better, when criminals were apprehended and received their just and swift punishment for their crimes. The French possess a proverbial expression: *Plus ça change, plus le même chose* (the more things change, the more they stay the same), all the more useful for its universal truth and applicability. It hardly seems to serve the ends of justice that Mr. Herrin managed to escape the state penitentiary in Nashville and, in the way of many felons of that day, go to his family in Texas for aid and concealment and live out a normal life, when, drunken or not, he had denied that right to another human. Whatever motivation Herrin thought he had to animate his actions, the shooting of William Clark White certainly was not a death incident to military hostilities, and none of the witnesses testified the victim was armed or did anything to provoke the attack. To the contrary, he remonstrated with his attackers not to frighten his pregnant wife. This was murder, whether pre-meditated or not, the reader must now decide.

It is true that apparently Herrin led an exemplary life in Texas, marred only by his continuing failure to tell the entire truth about his Confederate service, though the articles in the *Confederate Veteran* seem to indicate he was proud of a portion of that service, or at least wanted to fit in with the experiences of his contemporaries. He seems intent on crediting the McDonald family in Raymond, Mississippi for the kind ministrations they gave him during the time of his convalescence from his war wound. But he ran a severe risk in doing so; the risk that someone interested in his case in either Washington or Tennessee would recognize and remember him. He lived under the shadow of the threat of exposure from 1866 until 1903, and exposure would undo all of the good he had so carefully contrived to do after his prison escape. For exposure would consume all of those good deeds in the revelation that he was a convicted murderer and an escaped fugitive from justice.”

For nearly thirty years, many of the most prominent and politically well-connected persons in Middle Tennessee utilized their not insignificant influence on Herrin’s behalf to obtain a pardon. Many of them must have known him to be a fugitive from justice and some must have been acquainted with his whereabouts. Perhaps the warden of the state penitentiary knew where he was and turned a blind eye. Mrs. Jackson most certainly knew where he was. A bare minimum inquiry by state prison officials should have been sufficient to reveal his location anytime between 1865 and 1870. And then there is the completely anomalous outrage of Herrin becoming a Texas Ranger while a fugitive. At least one is forced to the conclusion that such would surely not be able to happen now. While technology makes life more pleasant and comfortable, and forensic science assists in locating and identifying criminals, the human condition changes very little over time. This is what makes the wisdom of ancient writers so valuable still. One is reminded of the continuing moral value of the Bible, independent of its lessons on faith. And so, one is also mindful that in some ways history jealously safeguards its secrets and justice must await more perfect administration than mere mortals can give it.

***The End***

***Future issues will include transcriptions  
of some of the original documents used in writing this story.***